



*A UK Discourse Analysis of Belonging in Romanian Identity and Immigratory Accounts*

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***Appendix ix: receiving society voice data (a): Question Time (debates) (x13)***

*Table vii: displays the Question Time extract details*

<b>Location</b>	<b>broadcast on</b>	<b>Duration (total: 247 mins, 326s)</b>
Barking	(6 <sup>th</sup> March 2014)	15:09
Basingstoke	(17 <sup>th</sup> October 2013)	17:09
Lewisham	(9 <sup>th</sup> January 2014)	17:38
Southampton	(8 <sup>th</sup> May 2014)	38:15
Birmingham	(20 <sup>th</sup> November 2014)	20:09
Bristol	(13 <sup>h</sup> December 2012)	18:49
Canterbury	(11 <sup>th</sup> December 2014)	17:40
Dover	(7 <sup>th</sup> March 2013)	17:28
Falkirk	(28 <sup>th</sup> November 2013)	17:23
Lincoln	(17 <sup>th</sup> January 2013)	16:47
Middlesbrough	(6 <sup>th</sup> November 2014)	16:07
Newbury	(16 <sup>th</sup> October 2014)	20:07
Romford	(27 <sup>th</sup> November 2014)	19:45

## *Question Time (11<sup>th</sup> December 2014) Canterbury*

1 ((audience ap[plause]) )

2

3 David [I want to on (1) I want t- I want to go on to another que]stion. Just before I d-, if you want

4 to – I have to announce this no:w because we've got a gap after this programme (.) so if

5 you want to be on the 'Question Time' audience, the next two programmes are going to be-

6 one is on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January in Watford, the other is (.) i:n Lincoln o:n whatever seven days

7 after that is, the 15<sup>th</sup>, and the details are on the screen there. Just to mention it. Let's go to a

8 question fro:m (.) Lynne O'Donahue, please. Lynne O'Donahue.

9

10 Lynne I:s Britain rea::lly overcrowded?

11

12 David A ver:y simple que↑stion is Britain reall:y overcrowded? An- in the light of a report

13 toda:↑y saying it absol:utely wasn't and needed lots more immigration, which came from

14 the Office For Budget Responsibili↓ty. um (.) Nigel Farage.

15

16 Nigel It's interesting The chap that produced that report today was the same chap who in 2008

17 said that the upcoming recession would be minute. So he hasn't got a very good track

18 record. Look, if you fly into Gatwick, you'll see lots of green spaces. That is certainly (.)

19 true. Howe::ver, if you have a country in which the population goes up as a direct result of

20 immigration, what you find is not a shortage of green fields (.) if that's where you wanted

21 to build houses (.) you find a shortage of primary school places. You find a shortage of GP

22 surgeries. We have fewer GPs per head than any other country in Europe today. You find

23 (.) conge:stion, whether it's on the roa:ds or the Lo↓ndon Underground or wherever you

24 go:. What you fi::↑nd is that actually, you're constantly playing catch-up and really, the

25 general quality of life for the ma:ss of population has gone down. So I think those

26 comments today were wholly (.) irresponsible and what we've seen- I mean, it's quite

27 interesting to think that, you know, in 1990 the population of this country was 55 million.

28 It is now between 62 and 63 million. That is a mas:sive, ma:ssive increase, and I think

29 ordinary folk (.) going about their lives (.) are feeling it. an- you know (.) having a pro:per

30 immigration policy, controlling the numbers, doing what nearly 200 countries in the world

31 do- namely, controlling the numbers that come and the type of people that come (.) is the

32 answer=

33

34 David =All right. (.) [Russell Brand]

35

36 ((audience applause [ ]))

37

38

39 Russell I sometimes feel worried about you, Nigel Farage. The reason I feel worried is because I

40 know a lot of people are frightened in our country. I know a lot of people are feeling afraid

41 and frustra:'ed, and there is a sense that there is a corrupt group in our country (.) using our

42 resources, taking away our jobs, taking away our housin', not paying taxes, exploitin' us,

43 and there is. There is an economic elite that this man's party is fu↓nded by↑, that this man

44 is the back- comes from a background working in the Ci↑ty. Let me tell you something

45 there was an economic crash and a lot of money was lost. His mates in the City farted,

46 Nigel is pointing at immigrants and the disabled and holding his no↓se. Immigrants are not

47 causing the economic problems and suffering [we're experiencin' (5) u::m] as much as any

48 of us, I enjoy seeing Nigel in a boozer with a pint and a fag, [laughing off his latest]

49 scandals (.) about breastfeeding or wh[atever. I enjoy it], but this m::an is not a cartoon

50 character. He ain't Del Boy. He ain't Arthur Daley. He is a pound shop Enoch Powell, and

51 we've got to watch him.=

52  
53 . (((audience applause )))  
54 . [laughter]

55  
56 . Nigel [No, they banned that now]

57  
58 . =((audience a[pplause])) ]

59  
60 . David [(you wanna come back on [that?])]  
61 .

62  
63 . Nigel [yea↑h] u- well Russell that's all well and go:od, and you've  
64 . got your point of vie:w; the question was, "Is Britain overcro↑w:ded", an- an- do you think  
65 . I'm wro:↑ng? I me=

66  
67 . Russell =YES (.) [Nigel. Can I not be more clear ma:te, I THINK you're WRong]. I come from the  
68 . kind of communiti-]

69  
70 . Nigel [do y:ou not th:ink do y:ou n:ot thi:nk d:o yo:u n:ot th:ink  
71 . ] Well (.) this is called '*Question Time*', this programme, right?=  
72 .

73 . Russell =Well, tonight it could have anot[her name]

74  
75 . Nigel [And wh]at happens is, members of the audience ask  
76 . questions and we're expected to answer them. You haven't answered this lady's question  
77 . (.) do you think Britain's overcrowded and there is a strain on public resources and  
78 . people's quality of life, because of an [irresponsible]

79  
80 . Russell [We need mo]re money for public resources=  
81 .

82 . Nigel =Well, where's it going to come from=

83  
84 . Russell =Our country's not overcrowded. It's going to come (.) oh, I'm so glad you asked, mate.  
85 .  
86 . ((laughter))

87  
88 . Russell er si::nce the financial crash, banker bonuses have exceeded £80bn. George Osborne, your  
89 . Chancellor, campaig:ned to stop caps being placed on banker bonuses. At the same time,  
90 . there were (.) austerity cuts against the poorest among us. The disabled, people that we  
91 . need to be looking after. We need to close tax loopholes which are exploited by big  
92 . corporations. There's money. I've got money now. I've seen rich people. There's ple:nty  
93 . of money out there. It's just not being distributed.

94  
95 . David Yes.  
96 .

97 Q1 And I don't like people preaching that er- (.) I am any part responsible for anything. I've  
98 never heard him criticise the disabled=

99  
100 Nigel I never have.

101  
102 Q1 Okay? Never, okay? And (1) yo::u are a campaigner, yeah? I'm going to go back to the last  
103 question=

104  
105 Russell =I'm a comedian, mate=

106  
107 Q1 =Please let me finish. Sta:nd. Stand (.) for Parliament. If you're going to cam[paign, then  
108 stand. Okay?] You have the media profile for it. D:o it.

109  
110 [((audience  
111 applause)) ]

112  
113 Russell My problem would be, mate, I'd stand for Parliament but I'd be scared that I'd become one  
114 of them. I w- I know what side of the arg==

115  
116 Q1 [=No, no. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. You've fought addiction] and you've beaten it, okay? (1)  
117 Yo:::u (.) you ca:n't preach that. That is- that is rubbish.

118  
119 [audience grumbles and boos ]

120  
121 Russell Mate, I=

122  
123 Q1 =You ca::nnot preach that.

124  
125 Russell [I'm not preaching] What I'm saying is=

126  
127 Q1 [But you are. ] =You've attacked him, okay, okay, and you've attacked him, and  
128 you've attacked everybody that stands for his pa↑rty.

129  
130 Russell =I do. [I do]

131  
132 Q1 [The]y – ['m sorry]

133  
134 Nigel [We're trying]

135  
136 Russell [I'm not attacking people that]

137  
138 Q1 [They are people on the stre::et]

139  
140 Q2 ((inaudible)) RICH AND RACIST, and=

141  
142 Q1 =Are they? Are they? [R:u::bish]

143  
144 Q2 ((inaudible)) [what they]'re trying to do [with a lac]k of resources, and it's right  
145 what he says, and that's what he does.

146  
147 Q1 [ru:bbi::sh] Sorry, but at the end of the  
148 day it's the general public th[at are standing for him]

149  
150 Q2 [He's a racist scumba::g] trying to blame (.) IM[Migrants  
151 for the cut]backs because (.) of his RICH (.) ban[ker (.) friends]

152  
153 [((audience  
154 applause))]

155  
156 David [all- all right. All right.]

157  
158 [((audience shouting))]

159  
160 Nigel Russell, you've got some voters here, mate. [You ou]ght to stand. I mean, these are your  
161 voters. They're lov[ely people]

162  
163 David [all right]

164  
165 Q2 [I LIVE in] South Thanet and I'm coming for you! Farage don't you  
166 [blo:ody worry]

167  
168 [((audience boo))]

169  
170 David [Just hear fro]m a voice up here. You, sir. On the gangway=

171  
172 [((inaudible))]

173  
174 ??? =behave yourself [over there]

175  
176 Q3 [The point] I want to make to Russell is that y- you claim to sort of stand  
177 up for the working cla:sses, but (.) you got to understand that it's the working classes that  
178 have been hit the hardest by immigratio- mass immigration. You know wage compression  
179 (.) th- the cha- change in the communities ove- over a short er short period of time has led  
180 to er you know te↑nsion within the communities. So you've got to appreciate that actually,  
181 you know, it's all right sayin- er you know criticising UKIP and Nigel Farage but actually  
182 it's the people at the bottom of society that have been hit the [hardest by immigration ]=

183  
184 . [((audience applause)) ]  
185 .  
186 . Russell [=I'm telling you, mate. Hon-]  
187 . honestly, I come from the same communities you come from. I've been very lucky and  
188 . I've had a few breaks and I've got a few quid now, and I'm telling you that (.) i'mmigran-  
189 . immigration has always been happenin'. What happened in 2008 was very unique [if I  
190 . thought]

191  
192 . Q3 [It's  
193 . the scal]e, it's the scale though=

194  
195 . Russell =My friend, I swear to you, if I thought- listen, try this for two years turn your focus  
196 . to corruption in the City. Turn your focus to apathetic politicians. Turn yourself to the  
197 . corruption that's going on there and if in two years' time your life hasn't got better,  
198 . campaigning against the people that have wealth and power, not those that have very little,  
199 . if it's still the same, I'll come with you and campaign. But I'm telling you, I know where  
200 . the power is, I know where the money is, [I know what we've got to do]

201  
202 . [((audience applause)) ]

203  
204 . David [Camilla Cavendish. Camilla.] Camilla  
205 . Cavendish

206  
207 . Camilla I'm not quite clear, Russell, what the relationship is between the (.) City and immigration. I  
208 . mean, the City of London actually now has some of the most talented people from all over  
209 . the world and we should be really proud of that. It's a fantastic, meritocratic success story  
210 . [for this country ]

211  
212 . [((audience applause))]

213  
214 . Russell [No, I don't] agree

215  
216 . Camilla [Can I finish?] It seems to me (.) to the gentleman's point here, we're at the end now of,  
217 . what, 16 years of this (.) experiment in mass immigration that was launched by the Labour  
218 . government, that the British people were never consulted on, and it was an experiment, and  
219 . we're in the middle of it, and it has brought a lot of people here. Whether or not we're  
220 . actually overcrowded, to your question (.) I think (.) a lot of people feel that we are, and I  
221 . don't think anybody in this country wants to shut the door. I really don't. I think there are  
222 . very few people that you can call racist in this country. I think we are a dee:ply tolerant  
223 . country. I think we are dee:ply welcoming to people, and a lot of people have come here  
224 . and they've done brilliantly and they have integrated. But what I do feel is that people  
225 . want a sense of control. They want controlled immigration, and that is what- if we have  
226 . controlled immigration, it doesn't mean we'd shut the door, it doesn't mean we'd actually  
227 . let fewer people in, but we would be a country more at ease with ourselves and I think  
228 . that's what we need to get to=

229  
230 . David [=alright]

231  
232 . [((audien]ce applause))=

233  
234 . David =Th- The question was about overcrowding. Mary Craye. I'll come to you in a moment.

235  
236 . Mary Well, just 10% of the landmass of Britain is actually built on and what we have at the  
237 . moment is a housing crisis because there's been a collapse in house building in this  
238 . country. (.) erm we have an infrastructure crisis. It isn't because there are too many  
239 . immigrants on the M4, and I think your comments, Nigel, were deeply irresponsible=

240  
241 . David =Do you know what percentage of the South-East is built [on], as opposed to the United  
242 . Kingdom as a whole, and is that a pertinent question? Yes.

243  
244 . Mary [No] I don't know what the  
245 . percentage is.

246  
247 . David No? Okay=

248  
249 . Mary =But the point is that this government came in, they cut investment in roads, they cut  
250 . investment in housing, and people talk about primary schools (.) um we have a crisis in  
251 . primary school places because we have an ideologically-driven government that has  
252 . pursued a free schools programme, opening schools in areas where there is no need (.)  
253 . and leaving places like my city in Wakefield with a trebling in the number of children that  
254 . are now taught in classes of over 30.

255  
256 . David We may come to education later, so I don't want you to-

257  
258 . Mary The point I'm trying to make is that at difficult times (.) we need investment in those  
259 . public services. When we talk about the NHS, we talk about schools, we talk about crowd-  
260 . overcrowding and housing (.) immigration is sometimes used as a pro↓xy. Now, we've  
261 . said we got some things wrong on immigration. We want to control immigra↑tion=

262  
263 . Nigel =You can say that again=

264  
265 . Mary =And we want to contro↑l the effects of immigration, but as the daughter of somebody  
266 . who came here to work from Ireland in the 1960s and who paid his way and contributed to  
267 . this economy, I think that some of the tone of what you say (.) Nigel, about immigrants and  
268 . blaming them for all sorts of ra:ndom problems, is not the way our country wants to go.  
269 . When we bring people in from outside, companies (.) fr- bringing people in from outside  
270 . the EU should be training a young person in our country to take up those jobs. We want to  
271 . get rid of the agencies that only recruit from Eastern Europe and bring people in to  
272 . undercut wages. We want to put an end to that wage exploitation. For people who think  
273 . there's no point in voting that's the difference between Labour and the Conservatives at the  
274 . next election

275  
276 . [((audience applause)) ]

277  
278 . Nigel [Mary, the whole point of this] an- and I'm pleased that you are now apologising because  
279 . when the doors opened to eight former communist countries, your government said it  
280 . would lead to an increase of 13,000 people a year coming into Britain and it was hundreds  
281 . of thousands a year=



282  
283 . Mary =We've said we got things wro↑ng on immigration. Those immigrants came and worked  
284 . and paid th[eir ta↑xes]

285  
286 . Nigel [But he]re i]s the point. Here is the point how on Earth can you (.) have school  
287 . provision? Housing provision? How can you pla:n for the future if you have an open door  
288 . to nearly half a billion people? [That is why we need control]

289  
290 . Mary [35% of the people in our N]ational Health Service. 35% of  
291 . the people in the National Health Service are from [overseas]. W]hat would happen to  
292 . the National Health Service?=  
293

294 . Nigel [ye::s ] =But they could have work  
295 . permits. The point is (.) ar↑e we overcrowded? Do we have too few resources? The job of  
296 . government is to plan for the future. You cannot plan if you have open door immigration=

297  
298 . David =All right. [I want to go ba]ck to the- ((we'll go?)) [round in circles. I wa]nt to go back to  
299 . the woman up there who was trying to get in before. Up in the back, there. Ye↑s.

300  
301 . [((audience applause))]

302  
303 . Nigel [that is the point]

304  
305 . Q4 I think we need to cap immigration. We've got Canterbury Prison um now that is full of (.)  
306 . um immigrants from outside the UK (.) and it's full. We should yet er people coming into  
307 . this country. It's not about cu- (.) stopping people coming into the country (.) it's about  
308 . vetting them. We need to know that they have a skill se:t for the country. There's jobs for  
309 . them to come in. We shouldn't have to support them when they come over. They should be  
310 . able to contribute to the country, not segregate themselves. I- (.) I fully support people  
311 . coming over to work, to integrate into this country. We have one of the most (.) o:pen  
312 . doors but we need to vet people coming into this country. We don't want people with  
313 . criminal histories. We don't want rapists, we don't want murderers, we don't want them=

314  
315 . Q2 =Oh, SHUT UP.

316  
317 . Q4 You are lady, you are the rudest woman that I've ever, [ever met. SIT DOWN AND BE  
318 . QUIET. IT IS NOTHIN- TO DO WITH RACISM AT ALL]. You need to back off and  
319 . mind what you say.

320  
321 . [((audience applause))  
322 . ]

323  
324 . Q3 It is nothing at all to do with racism at all. (.) It's not even about numbers. It's vetting  
325 . people. We need to make sure that people coming to this country, (.) they have a skill set  
326 . for this country=

327  
328 . David =All right. When you say it's not about numbers, then (.) in reply to the question, "Is  
329 . Britain really overcrowded", is your answer yes or no?

330  
331 Q4 ah (.) where I live, yes. [Yes]

332  
333 David [All] right. Penny Morgan.

334  
335 Penny Well, the scene that we keep coming back to is control, and I think that's what is worrying  
336 people most. They don't- (.) Although we've er (.) been able to control and reduce  
337 migration that's coming fr- from outside the EU, from within the EU, it is more (.)  
338 challenging. I think we've got to do a number of things to improve that. We have to have  
339 better border controls, I completely understand the point that you raise. We have to  
340 remove any uh (.) negative financial incentives that might be bringing people here, so that  
341 you contribute to the system before you can have social housing or you can access  
342 particular benefits, those kind of things=

343  
344 Q4 ((inaudible)) =that's only being raised now because somebody else has got the backbone to  
345 actually say something about that. I don't agree, I'm sorry (.) Nigel, I don't agree with  
346 everything he says but I do agree with the fact that he's brought up something that (.) a lot  
347 of people feel very, very strongly about. It's not necessarily numbers. It's a whole band of  
348 things=

349  
350 David =All right. Well, you've=

351  
352 Q4 =Sorry=

353  
354 David =No, it's all right. You've had your say. Penny Morgan.

355  
356 Penny The final point I would make is, this is a hugely important issue and it's a very sensitive  
357 issue. Clearly there are feelings high in the studio audience tonight, and we've got to  
358 ensure that the debate we're having is a sensible, it's a grown-up one. We know that  
359 immigration is a good thing for the country; that most immigrants are net contributors to  
360 the UK economy. They are helping this economy get back on its fee:t again, but what the  
361 public want is control. I understand how let down people feel, historically, about that, and  
362 we've got to get to grips with it and we've got to demonstrate to people the changes that  
363 are being made and the effect that's having on the numbers=

364  
365 Mary =But Penny, you also have to make sure that the Home Office is properly resourced so that  
366 we give people's background checks before they are granted citizenship like the case we  
367 [had this evening]

368  
369 [((applause)) ]

370  
371 Penny We've done a huge [amount to]

372  
373 Mary [We've got] 170,000 asylum seekers that are just left in limbo, and  
374 50,000 of them have just disappeared=

375  
376 Penny =Well, in part, Mary=

377  
378 Mary =You don't have the systems and you're not counting people in and counting them out of  
379 the country. That's a big problem.

380  
381 Nigel Wow. Labour, tough on immigration. That's something, isn't it? Never thought I'd see  
382 that.

383  
384 David All right. The person up there, I think you've spoken already. The person there, four in.  
385 Yes, with two hands up. That's one way of doing it.

386  
387 Q5 I agree that immigration is an issue and people are concerned about (.) but I- I agree with  
388 Mary that they're concerned about it because there are so: many o↑ther issues, about  
389 hou:sing, the NHS, the whole area of public expenditure, and that brings you back to what  
390 Russell was saying (.) we spend so much time talking about immigration, it's a s:ide issue  
391 when you think about what happened in 2008. We have been robbed (.) we are still being  
392 robbed. The amount of taxation that is not being paid by the very rich, is an absolute  
393 scandal. Why aren't we talking about that?=  
394  
395 David =All right.

396  
397 ((audience applause))

398  
399 David At which point I'm going to go onto another question, which is relevant to this perhaps,  
400 which is relevant to this perhaps ((continues))

---

### ***Question Time (27<sup>th</sup> November 2014) Romford***

401 David (...) welcome. Welcome to our audience here and to our panel tonight the government's  
402 Chief Whip, former Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove; Labour's Shadow  
403 Business Secretary, Chuka Ummuna; the Liberal Democrat MP Norman , who resigned  
404 from the government earlier this mo↑nth; the columnist for the 'Daily Mail' Amanda  
405 Platell, and the comedian and television David Jo Brand ((music: 8)) Thanks very much.  
406 As ever, you can join in the controversies or the arguments by text or Twitter. Our hash tag  
407 BBCQT. You can follow us at BBC *Question Time*, you can text comments to 83981, you  
408 can use the red button to see what others are sa↑ying, and if you want to make a change,  
409 you could always send us a postcard to BBC *Question Time* Glasgow, something like that  
410 Let's have our first question. It comes from Mo Sorinola, please.

411  
412 Q1 Is David Cameron's 'no ifs, no buts' promise to reduce im- (.) to reduce immigration to  
413 tens of thousands now in tatters?

414  
415 David I::s Cameron's 'no ifs, no buts' promise to reduce immigration to tens of thousands now  
416 in tatters, Chuka ?

417  
418 Chuka I think there's a big problem, is that he promised something that he couldn't delive↓r and  
419 clearly the figures today show that he isn't able to deliver what he promised, which was to  
420 reduce (.) inward migration to the tens of thousands. In seeking to pursue something that  
421 he cannot achieve, it has distorted decision-making and meant, for example, that they have

422 . been doing great damage to our economy. One obvious example I'm the Shadow Business  
 423 . Secretary, higher education sits in my brief (.) they've lumped legitimate students,  
 424 . international students coming here, into their migration cap and given the image that (.) in  
 425 . terms of higher education we're closed for business, which is bad for our economy.  
 426 . Making promises you can't deliver is not sensible and it undermines trust in politics, but I  
 427 . just want to say something generally about this debate around immigration, because I think  
 428 . everybody wants a fair and firm immigration policy. I want one where we control who  
 429 . comes in and out, we count who comes in and out, we ensure that if you're going to take  
 430 . out of our benefit system, you contribute in first, we don't have undercutting in our labour  
 431 . market. But I think we also have to acknowledge that immigration (.) and when people  
 432 . seek to frame, for example, Eastern European immigrants as a source of all our problems,  
 433 . frankly I think that is a complete and utter con. I think we should have no truck with that  
 434 . kind of rhetoric, which we see in part coming from UKIP and some people in parts of the  
 435 . Conservative Party, that seeks to set up different parts of our communities against each  
 436 . other. That is not [in keeping with British values]

437  
 438 . [((Applause)) ]=

439  
 440 . David =So, are you happy with an increase, a level of just over a quarter of a million net migrants  
 441 . into this country, or would you like it lo↑wer, or would you be happy to see it hi↑gher,  
 442 . because you say people are being refused entry who should be allowed?

443  
 444 . Chuka I think ultimately, if you look at, for example, our NHS, our NHS wouldn't be able to be  
 445 . ru↑n without what immigrants bring to it, so immigrants actually help our economy. To the  
 446 . extent that we've got immigrants coming into our economy to do jobs that our people here  
 447 . don't have the skills to do, of course we've got to provide people with the skills and  
 448 . traini↑ng we need more people taking up engineering, for example – to be able to do those  
 449 . roles.

450  
 451 . David But I'm just asking about the figures that came out today. Are they, in your view, too  
 452 . hi↑gh, too lo↓w, or about ri↑ght?

453  
 454 . Chuka At the end of the day, the reason we've got people coming in is because our economy  
 455 . needs it. Ultimately, we need to make sure people have got the skills and qualifications to  
 456 . do the roles that people are coming in to do, but I look at what immigrants have brought.  
 457 . Look I'm the son of an immigrant. I look at what immigration has brought and how it has  
 458 . enriched our country culturally, in terms of our economy, and I think it's brought a lot to  
 459 . our country, but I think the tone of the debate around immigration is becoming very ugly,  
 460 . actually, in our country and I don't think it's in keeping with our values of tolerance,  
 461 . respect, fair play. It's not really what we're about and we've got to change it.

462  
 463 . David Mo, who asked this question, what do you think (.) of Chuka's answer?

464  
 465 . Q1 Yes, I agree with Chuka, because the whole rhetoric around immigration is quite negative  
 466 . at the moment and I do really believe that politicians shouldn't go for sensationalism you  
 467 . know (.) when they make promises about certain issues that are very important to the  
 468 . people. Yes, he did overpromise and he's now unable to deliver.

469  
 470 . David Michael ?

471  
 472 . Michael These are big numbers and the Home Secretary said earlier this week that we were unlikely  
 473 . to be able to meet this target. I think that's very clear after today. I think it's important to

474 . appreciate that there are different routes into Britain, and Chuka is right (.) there are a great  
 475 . many people who come to this country who have a great deal to contribute, people who are  
 476 . professionals who help to improve our National Health Service, people who come here  
 477 . who want to study and who want to learn, who want to contribute and who ensure that  
 478 . there's a cross-fertilisation, intellectual growth in our country. What's difficult, I think, to  
 479 . take, for many people, is the rate and the pace of immigration, because it brings particular  
 480 . pressures. It brings pressures on housing; it also brings pressures on schools, access to  
 481 . GPs, and hospitals as well. If we're going to get the benefits of migration, then we need to  
 482 . make sure that people feel that the numbers are controlled. There's a particular problem  
 483 . here, because while we've been able to reduce the numbers of people coming from outside  
 484 . the EU, making sure that talented people who want to contribute can come, we haven't  
 485 . been able to control the numbers of people coming from within the EU. And Chuka said  
 486 . that people are coming here because our economy needs them; actually, many people from  
 487 . the EU are coming here because there are no jobs in their countries but jobs are being  
 488 . created here. In Britain we've created more jobs in the last four years than in the whole of  
 489 . the rest of the European Union put together, and the reason that people are coming here is  
 490 . because of our economic success. I think it's a good thing that our economy is growing,  
 491 . but I think if we're going to ensure that that growth is shared fairly and there is not an  
 492 . unfair pressure on public services in some areas, then we need to control migration. In  
 493 . particular, we need to change the rules within the European Union that at the moment  
 494 . have meant that too many people have come here and who haven't been contributing in the  
 495 . way that we would want=

496 .  
 497 . =((Audience applause))

498 .  
 499 . Chuka What you didn't mention, what Michael didn't mention, was the almost two million Brits  
 500 . who are actually living in the EU and working in the EU. The reason that we've got  
 501 . problems with our housing, problems with our NHS is not because of immigration- it's  
 502 . because we haven't built enough houses over the last few decades.  
 503 . Frankly, we may or may not talk about the NHS later, but the NHS is under severe  
 504 . pressure because of a huge top-down reorganisation that was carried out on it=

505 .  
 506 . David Michael , why do you think that David Cameron gave his promise that they would reduce  
 507 . immigration to the levels of the 1990s, meaning tens of thousands a year instead of the  
 508 . hundreds of thousands, and then added, "If we don't deliver our side of the bargain, vote us  
 509 . out in five years' time"? The five years is nearly up.

510 .  
 511 . Michael Nearly up, it is. I think the reason why David set out that target is because the level of  
 512 . migration had dramatically increased in the first decade of this century. We've had in  
 513 . Britain tremendously good community relations. We still do, but those good community  
 514 . relations depend upon people feeling that we can control our borders. Those countries  
 515 . which have succeeded in being multi-ethnic, multi-racial success stories, like Australia or  
 516 . Canada, are countries where, yes, large numbers of people come in, but there's a sense  
 517 . that those countries have control of their borders. It's the fact that, because of the nature  
 518 . of our membership of the European Union, we don't have control of our borders that  
 519 . people question the capacity of our government to be able to manage migration in a way  
 520 . that means that we benefit from it, and at the same time that we maintain the good relations  
 521 . that make our society so rich in so many ways=

522 .  
 523 . David =You, sir.

524 .  
 525 . Q2 I 100% agree with Michael with all of this. Of course, I'm in business, and of course the  
 526 . country needs labour forces coming in. One of the successes with Germany was as a  
 527 . result of the Curtain coming down (.) but it's a matter of control. We can't flood this

528 country with millions of people. That 280,000 that we've just come out with, I read in the  
 529 paper today that doesn't consider the babies that have been born as a result of this as well –  
 530 four out of five babies they said by- I'm not against that, but the housing can't cope (.)  
 531 nothing can cope. We've got to say, "Hold fire a minute. We're not against foreign people,  
 532 we don't want to chuck people out (.) let's hold fire until we sort this mess out."  
 533 Otherwise, everything is going to start collapsing (.) schools and everything.

534  
 535 David Jo Brand.

536  
 537 Jo Yeah well er first of all, I think that David Cameron is frightened because he's leaking  
 538 support from the Tories to UKIP and he wants to be seen to be doing something about this  
 539 nefarious area of immigration. As far as I'm aware, immigrants actually put more into the  
 540 economy than they take out. I don't know whether that's right or wrong, but that's what  
 541 I've read. But if you speak to some people, you just wouldn't believe that was the case;  
 542 you would believe that they're coming here, they're sucking the country dry, they're  
 543 sending it all back home to relatives and some of them are committing crimes. I think it's  
 544 really down to immigration being concentrated in certain areas where people are  
 545 uncomfortable about it, and it's also down to certain areas of the press encouraging  
 546 scaremongering about what's going on. I'm also interested in how you decide what is a  
 547 suitable level of immigration. Ask everyone in this room (.) they're all going to say  
 548 something different, aren't they, because people have different attitudes about  
 549 immigrants? People know different things about them; people don't know how many  
 550 people come into the country and work for the NHS. I think a lot of them come in (.) they  
 551 work in rural areas like Herefordshire, where they're paid a pittance, which local workers  
 552 wouldn't accept. They're housed really badly, in appalling conditions which no-one in this  
 553 country would put up with. I think you need to look at that side of the way that they're  
 554 being treated as well.

555  
 556 David Is it whipped up by the press, Amanda Plate↑ll?

557  
 558 Amanda It is. (.) The press has been vilified for a long time for talking about im- issues like  
 559 immigration, and actually it's been concerning millions of people in this country for a very  
 560 long time. What makes my heart sink- and I haven't heard Norman speak yet, but when  
 561 we hear the politicians we've had both Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband, [and the  
 562 representatives of your party, Chuka, and David Cameron saying that We can- "We're  
 563 going to bring in- We're going to remove tax credits, we're going to do this- we're going  
 564 to make it less attractive for people to come into this country" (.) under the current  
 565 legislation they cannot do any of that. You cannot treat someone living in Britain any  
 566 differently from how you can treat them anywhere else in the world, unless you negotiate,  
 567 and there is no evidence whatsoever that these negotiations are going to work. I would just  
 568 like to say I'm an immigrant; I came here 30 years ago, but I never expected that this  
 569 country would provide me with a meal ticket. I've worked really, really hard. It is a  
 570 fantastic country which I love and I'm so proud to be part of, but I didn't come here [I use  
 571 expecting to be paid for things. the NHS. Apart from that, even when I've been  
 572 unemployed, I haven't used it – fortunately because I didn't have kids so I didn't need to.  
 573 If only more people just came here and thought, "It's about us giving to this fantastic  
 574 country, rather than us coming here and expecting for our"]=

575  
 576 Chuka =Amanda, I think that's what most people who've come here- My father, my late father,  
 577 was exactly the same as you- he didn't come here expecting to be given a meal ticket.  
 578 What you were saying about controls, at the moment, in terms of people coming here from  
 579 Europe, you have to have been here for three months before you can claim benefits, so  
 580 there is a degree of of- of control around the way [the benefits]

581  
 582 David [Which you] want to make two years, don't

583 . you?

584 .

585 . Amanda You're talking about two years and now David Cameron [is mentioning] four years=

586 .

587 . Chuka =That's in terms of=

588 .

589 . Amanda [but you can't cha<sup>n</sup>ge that=

590 .

591 . Chuka But you can, you can in terms of out-of-work benefits. In-work benefits are different=

592 .

593 . David =Al[right], leave it for the moment. The woman at the back there in the very back row and

594 . I'll come to you. Yes.

595 .

596 . Amanda [just]

597 .

598 . Q3 Yes, I totally agree with your points because you can't go around penalising all

599 . immigrants, because they're coming to change their lives. Some, like you said, they work

600 . hard to get where they are today, like yourself.

601 .

602 . Amanda They work incredibly hard and contribute a huge amount.

603 .

604 . Q3 Yes, exactly.

605 .

606 . David Okay Do you want to come in, the woman here?

607 .

608 . Q4 um (.) I just wanted to pick up on what he said earlier about the whole idea that we don't

609 . have the skills ourselves. Perhaps we don't have the skills ourselves because the younger

610 . people like myself, don't have the opportu<sup>n</sup>ity to (.) ga<sup>n</sup> in those skills throughout doing

611 . qualifications because of this 16-hour rule that you've got. You can only do 16 hours while

612 . you're on benefits.

613 .

614 . Chuka We want to change that, by the way. It's ridiculous.

615 .

616 . Q4 Yes, and we know that it's terrible.

617 .

618 . Chuka You're absolutely right=

619 .

620 . Q4 =It is terrible because the decisions that you make when you're 15/16 are not the decisions

621 . that you're going to want to make when you're 19 or 20.

622 .

623 . Chuka That's right.

624 .

625 . Q4 I do actually- I know it's really sad to say (.) I do regret the decisions that I made when I  
 626 . was at school. In fact, I'd prefer to do veterinary nursing, but when I came out of school I  
 627 . thought, "The safest option that fits my grades would be to do hairdressing." We don't  
 628 . have those skills in the British people that live here already, because we're not giving them  
 629 . a better opportunity.

630 .  
 631 . David Norman Baker=  
 632 .  
 633 . Norman =That's one of the reasons why we'd be very keen to promote apprenticeships in  
 634 . government and have got 1.8 million more apprenticeships than we had in 2010, which is  
 635 . one of the ways of dealing with that very real problem. Coming back to Mo's question,  
 636 . which I think was 'no ifs, no buts', I think the Prime Minister was rather unwise to make a  
 637 . commitment to something which he couldn't deliver. He couldn't deliver it because there  
 638 . are no controls at the moment legally on EU migration. It's like making a commitment to  
 639 . the number of days it's going to ration next year; you simply can't make it work. What's  
 640 . happened is the system has been skewed. Because EU migration has been off the agenda,  
 641 . as it were, there's been an attempt to screw down non-EU migration, which has actually  
 642 . damaged our higher education system and damaged our business interests in some way.  
 643 . That's not been good for this country, so we need to look at it in a different way. I want to  
 644 . make one point about our own people who've left the UK and gone elsewhere, however  
 645 . (.)because there is a balance. Yes, we've had net migration this month and there's been an  
 646 . overall trend, but it's worth remembering there are about 1.5 million UK residents who are  
 647 . elsewhere in the European Union benefiting from what they have to offer (.) including,  
 648 . for example, a lot of our pensioners in Spain who are benefiting from the Spanish health  
 649 . service. It's not a one-way street.

650 .  
 651 . David You, sir, in the front row.

652 .  
 653 . Q5 Yeah, I just wrote to the Prime Minister about this very subject. I'm unemployed at the  
 654 . moment. I live local, Romford. I went for a job and the foreman came down (.) he said,  
 655 . "Excuse me, I don't understand English," so I don't tend to agree with your colleague there  
 656 . on the side. There are people with skills. I have them skills. When the Prime Minister  
 657 . wrote back to me, he was basically saying that I was racist. If you go to someone where  
 658 . they can't understand English, and (.) you just can't get along with them. I feel that they're  
 659 . just giving people jobs from Europe, they're totally ignoring the people locally, and I  
 660 . pointed out that you can (.) regarding colour or religion, local people here could do that  
 661 . job=

662 .  
 663 . Chuka =So let me say something. I don't think it is racist at all to talk about immigration. Some  
 664 . people say that we don't talk about it enough. I think we talk a lot about immigration, but  
 665 . I think in terms of (.) the businesses that I speak to, in particular people with the technical  
 666 . and vocational skills- and we were talking about apprenticeships (.) that is something that  
 667 . the business community says is lacking and so we've absolutely got to make sure that there  
 668 . are more people with those skills. In terms of language, absolutely I think if you're coming  
 669 . to our country, it's important that we help people integrate. That's one of the reasons why  
 670 . we've said, "We shouldn't be spending money translating documents for people; we  
 671 . should spend money, if we're going to do something like that, in helping them learn the  
 672 . language," absolutely=

673 .  
 674 . David =You didn't get the job, or you walked away from it?

675 .  
 676 . Q5 No, I didn't get the job. I reported it to the local council. I've got the letter here from the  
 677 . Prime Minister if you wish to read it. Actually, one of the guys from Europe, I had to take  
 678 . him home because he was lost around Victoria. So I wrote to the Prime Minister,  
 679 . explaining, "When I was right on your doorstep, this is going on."



680  
681 David The man behind you there and then I'll come to you, yes.

682  
683 Q6 I just want to take issue with Mr Baker's point and some of the general points from the  
684 panel about being in Europe means that we all have to do the same things. We do↑n't. I  
685 was one of those 1.5 million that last year took a year out, moved to Cyprus. You can't  
686 claim unemployment benefit there unless you pay in; your employer has to take money out  
687 of your wages. You pay in actively to the months that you're not working. There's a  
688 different charge for healthcare (.) there are different taxes. There are different prices in  
689 restaurants for the tourists as there are for the locals. There is really only one choice, which  
690 is, because of the five pillars of the EU, you either stay in the EU and accept it, good or ill,  
691 or come out of it.

692  
693 David Oka↑y, and the woman up there.

694  
695 Q7 Chucka, bringing up on the point that you made about integra↑tion, I think that's one of the  
696 issues that we find most frustrating. From a local point of view, lots of people have moved  
697 in, particularly from the East End of London, from a Bangladeshi or a Pakistani  
698 background (.) and they don't integrate with us locally. We don't have (.) any  
699 commonality with these people that we are not able to talk to people because they don't  
700 want to talk or integrate with us. That's the big frustration for us and I think it's a key part  
701 of us all getting on and being an inclusive society. We're not able to do that because (.) we  
702 can't make friends, we can't become-

703  
704 Chuka But don't you think=

705  
706 David =No, let Michael answer this one

707  
708 (1)

709  
710 Q7 I just don't think that we have the community spirit that we used to have in this local are↑a.

711  
712 David Michael ?

713  
714 Michael I think Chuka made a very valuable point earlier I think it's very important that we  
715 encourage people to speak English, that we don't waste public money translating  
716 documents into a Tower of Ba↑bel list of languages, that we concentrate on making sure  
717 that people, whatever background they come from, integra↑te. That means also having  
718 respect for British values as well – tolerance, fair play, a belief in the rule of law. Societies  
719 that are made up of people from lots of different backgrounds benefit from diversity,  
720 different ideas and different cultures, but they also only benefit from that diversity if  
721 there's an agreement on the core democratic values that hold the United Kingdom together.

722  
723 David I'm going to move on er (.) because we've had 20 minutes. You don't want to answer  
724 his point, because I think he made the point, you made the point [as well].

725  
726 Norman [I was] going to pick up  
727 on the language point, actually=

728  
729 David =Yes, but I think we'll move on because we've done 20 minutes on that um er:

730 ((continues))

---

***Question Time (20<sup>th</sup> November 2014): Birmingham***

731 David Tonight, we're in Birmingham, and welcome to *Question Time*. (10) Welcome to you  
732 watching or listening at home, to our audience here, and of course to our panel. Tonight,  
733 the Conservative former Chanccellor, Ken Clarke. Labour's Shadow Health Secretary,  
734 Andy Burnham. UKIP's first Member of Parliament, Douglas Carswell , and he may see  
735 his Parliamentary part double in size tonight, when the by-election results are announced.  
736 The columnist for the Independent, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown. And the political director of  
737 the Taxpayer's Alliance, Dia Chavravati.

738  
739 ((Applause and music: 8))

740  
741 David And just to remind you, you can join in the controversies by text or Twitter. Our hashtag,  
742 #BBCQT, follow us at BBC *Question Time*. Text comments to 83981, and push the red  
743 button to see what others are saying. Our first question (.) tonight comes from Stephen  
744 Parks, please.

745  
746 Q1 Both Labour and Conservatives have recently released policies intended to limit EU  
747 migration. Does this mean that UKIP have been right all along?

748  
749 David Have UKIP been right all along, because both Labour and Conservatives have released  
750 policies to limit EU immigration? Andy (.) Burnham.

751  
752 Andy uh no, it certainly doesn't mean UKIP have been right all along. I think what I could  
753 say, to begin, is that the main parties have been slow: to pick up the level of concern  
754 that there (.) has been out there about levels of immigration, there's no doubt about  
755 that. And belatedly, I think, now, you're seeing a better debate about immigration.  
756 We have put measures out this week (.) saying that uh and I've said this for some time  
757 I believe in the free movement of labour, but I don't believe in the free movement of  
758 benefits, I never have. I've never tried to justify that in my constituency. And the policy  
759 that Rachel Reeves has launched this week says that that shouldn't be (.) what people are  
760 entitled to. But let's look at what UKIP are saying. We've had a UKIP (.) UKIP candidate  
761 this week saying that uh there should be (.) repatriation of European (.) uh citizens. Now,  
762 he wasn't Nigel Farage said he was tired. You're not (.) you don't just, tired, we all get  
763 tired, you don't just say, "Oh, well, I'm now in favour of repatriating Europea- European  
764 Union citizens." I mean, he joined the party thinking that was an acceptable thing to say. I  
765 think, you know, UKIP now are going way beyond the line. They're ratcheting up the  
766 rhetoric, this is becoming BNP-style er rhetoric, and I don't know about ((Audience  
767 applause applause: 6)) TO BE honest, I think they've had a bit of a free run, you know, the  
768 man in the pub and all of this. It's time to tak- take them on, this is not acceptable. I think  
769 those comments will make people across Birmingham, the country, feel very uneasy, who  
770 have family members who come from different parts of Europe and the world. I think it is  
771 time to cal to call this out. You know, if we had a UKIP-style immigration policy, our  
772 National Health Service just simply would not be able to function, and those are the  
773 kind of questions they've got [to an[swer.]] I don't- I DON'T I don't know about Reckles]s,  
774 but it's downright bloody DANGERous to start talking in these terms.

775  
776 David [all right ]

777

778 [Audience applause]

779

780 Douglas UKIP absolutely, absolutely does not argue that there should be repatriation. Absolutely

781 not. The whole point of being able to control our borders (.) is to allow us to build social

782 cohesion. UKIP wants social cohesion, no:t division. And the reason why we want to

783 control our borders is to allo:w us to have social cohesion, which uncontrolled

784 immigration has has has tested an- and stressed. Now, Mark Reckless, who I've known

785 for 20 years, I know his values. He does not believe in repatriation, he abs[olutely doesn't].

786

787 Andy [Why did he say i]t?

788

789 Douglas It was a clumsy reply, at the end of a lo:ng day, in a long campaign (1) i- and he was

790 talking about transitional arrangements with reference to EU negotiation. He was

791 absolutely not talking about residency rights, absolutely not. And if you've come to this

792 country legitimately, UKIP recognises you have as mu:ch right (.) to belong here as anyone

793 else, and that is absolutely core to UKIP's beliefs. We want a country that is united, but we

794 recognise in order to build that social cohesion, we need the Australian type system, a

795 points-based system, where we have democratic control over our immigration policy.

796 It's not extreme to ar:gue for what they have in Australia, i- it's common sense. What's

797 da::ft, I think, is to have a system of immigration where there's no control. Where 400

798 million people have a le:gal right to come here. That, I think, is daft. That has to change.

799 And it's good that the mainstream parties, having used smear and jeer against UKIP, are

800 now waking up (.) to the fact that we need to control our borders. We need to do it in a

801 sensible way, we need to do it in a- in a in a liberal way. I would personally argue that

802 there are hu:ge benefits to this country for immigration [and I fought a] by-election

803 arguing, arguing with people (.) that we do need immigration, and that there is not a GP

804 surgery or a hospital or a supermarket in my constituency which couldn't work without

805 migration. But we need controlled migration, and I think UKIP has woken Westminster up

806 to the need for this debate.

807

808 Yasmin [Oh, thank you]

809

810 ((Audience applause))

811

812 David Yasmin Alibhai-Brown.

813

814 Yasmin It's very (.) I mean, I'm very fo<sup>nd</sup> of Douglas [but I'm extr]emely disappointed that he's

815 taken himself into this cul-de-sac with some pretty dubious values. But where I cannot

816 accept Andy's point either, in the way you have touched on something. We did not need

817 both the other main parties fa::lling down before UKIP. [We needed them, we need you,

818 Andy, your party, to really] (1) as Martin Luther King said, "the politics of morality". I a

819 democracy, we now have no choice, because everybody's anti-immigrant except for

820 the Green Party, and a bit of the Lib Dems, we don't trust Lib Dems=

821

822 Douglas [Thank you]

823

824 [((Audience applause))]

825

826 Andy =Yasmin, I just=

827  
828 . Yasmin =[That's not fair ]

829  
830 . David [Hold on a second]

831  
832 . Yasmin It's not fair that you falle- followed UKIP. (.) You know, Nigel Farage is the dynamo of  
833 . politics. He's an illusionist. But you don't have to follow him. Even if he got 50 seats,  
834 . you should have stuck to good values and policies. [You didn't.]

835  
836 . [((audience a)ppl[ause]))

837  
838 . David [Ken] (.) then I'll come  
839 . to you. Ken Clarke.

840  
841 . Ken Well, uh what we need is a healthy debate, a sensible debate about t- er (.) immigration.  
842 . There isn't anybody who doesn't think you have to control im[migrate]on. You want  
843 . people to come here legally. We want people to come here uh (.) to make an honest  
844 . contribution uh to our society, and we're going to have them when we need them. And  
845 . what we (.) have to do is keep improving things, and make sure that if it's being abu::sed  
846 . and it's largely because it's so difficult to enforce that it was been weak, it was very weak.  
847 . a few years ago Theresa May is not a soft touch. There's been a considerable fall in  
848 . migration into this got country. She's rid of dozens and dozens of bogus language schools.  
849 . And uh we've stopped just handing out National Insurance numbers to anybody who walks  
850 . in

851  
852 . Yasmin [Exactly]

853  
854 . David And was UKIP right all along, which was the [question]

855  
856 . Ken [No, no ] UKIP is wrong. UKIP is wrong,  
857 . in that it's la:tched on to the subject of im[migrat]ion. Let me just explain why, Douglas.  
858 . I'm not going to start (.) calling you names or anything=

859  
860 . Douglas [I just] =Thank you=

861  
862 . Ken =But I do think UKIP's responsible for the rather increasingly silly tone of the debate that  
863 . we're having. [And UKIP is wrong] to la:tch on to immigration as part of its  
864 . anti-Europe campaign. Apparently, suddenly what's wrong is, it's all being run from  
865 . Brussels which is nonsense and also suggest (.) that the reason we have troubles without  
866 . Health Service, the reason we have troubles with pay being lo::w, the reason we have  
867 . trouble getting better economic gro:wth, the reason we have housing problems (.) it's all  
868 . foreigners. It's all immigration. It's all Brussels. Fra::nkly, that is nonsense, and I agree  
869 . with Yasmin, the two mainstream parties who aspire to be the government of this country  
870 . at a very difficult time should begin by saying that it's all rubbish. I say it's Gordon  
871 . Brown, for some of it. I say we're not building enough houses. And the population's  
872 . getting very older, and making health demands. It is not the fault of Roma↑nians, it is not  
873 . the fault of people coming from anywhere in the Commonwealth and a se::nsible  
874 . discussion on immigration is how do we get things down. The benefit thing (.) as it  
875 . ha::ppens, the European immigrants are less likely to claim benefit than practically a↑ny  
876 . group of the population, becau[se they come here they com]e th- th- they here to do jobs,

877 . which unfortunately we still have skills we can't fill without people coming from Ea- East  
878 . Europe. They come to do jobs that other people er (.) can't do. And we are able to stop  
879 . giving them benefits.

880  
881 . [((audience applause))]

882  
883 . (([ Audience applause ]))

884  
885 . David Are you in favour of Labour's proposal for two years before benefits?

886  
887 . Ken That's fa:r too long.

888  
889 . David Why is it far too long?

890  
891 . Ken Well, it isn't what's done to ou:r people abroad. Is it doable? I- in a modern country,  
892 . people go both ways. There are almost two million Brits living on the Continent. Ten  
893 . percent of those living in Berlin claim unemployment benefit. We've suggested three  
894 . months as a waiting time. We've always had the habitual residence test. European rules  
895 . allow you to stop people coming here (.) just or benefits, you don't need to negotiate  
896 . anything and one of the things Theresa's been do::ing is actually tightening up what was a  
897 . system which has colla::psed into in[efficiency]

898  
899 . David [Okay, all r]ight.

900  
901 . Ken And what was done by Labour, which was plainly two days before a by-elec[tion]

902  
903 . Andy [I am]  
904 surprised you [say]

905  
906 . Ken [And] they decided to try to out-b[id UKIP]

907  
908 . Andy [Ken, I] am surprised you say two years  
909 . is far too is far too long. Just let me make this point, David. I am surprised you say that,  
910 . because people would say, if people are going to come here to work and contribute, that  
911 . is fine. But they don't accept that people can come and then take out. If there's no job,  
912 . and no work, they then (.) should go back to their ow[n country] I think it's where common  
913 . sense opinion sits in this debate, and that's where we should, whe[re [he main parties be]  
914 . speaking (.) that

915  
916 . Ken [But they're] contributing.

917  
918 . David [We've got a number of]  
919 . Wait, okay. We've got a number of people wanting to speak. I want to bring in Dia, and  
920 . then we'll go to members of the audience. Dia.

921  
922 . Dia Right, thank you. I have been sitting here listening to- you know all you so much more

923 . learned people talking about this, an- andd I'm just thinking, you know, there was a time  
 924 . not so long ago when UKIP was doing we:ll, and the main, big parties just said, "Oh, that's  
 925 . just a protest vote, so we're not going to do anything about it," apparently was the option.  
 926 . So people protested a little bit mo:re, and the big parties said, "That's just a protest vote."  
 927 . And now, people protested a little bit more, and then UKIP lost (.) UKIP won, sorry, the  
 928 . European elections, the local elections. Douglas now their MP, they're probably going to  
 929 . have another MP by the end of tonight, I don't know. So if the big main parties, the main  
 930 . big parties, think that UKIP was having a dangerous debate, is it not a little bit their  
 931 . responsibility? Why didn't they open up that debate at th- that point? You know, what was  
 932 . stopping them from opening up that debate? What bothers me some times about the debate  
 933 . around immigration is that we focus (.) and politicians do this, and I think it's very  
 934 . irresponsible of them to do that they try and exploit the fear of the other. That is  
 935 . dangerous, that doesn't help anybody but the BNP, rig[ht? N- no Let's get that out of  
 936 . the way, completely. And w]e've seen that in some of the Conservative literature, well, f-  
 937 . for the by-election as well. I did not like that language. And we see that in all sorts of  
 938 . parties, really, to be absolutely fair. But if you though the language was wrong? Why  
 939 . didn't you step in then? As an immigrant myself, I don't need, I don't feel the need to be  
 940 . protected from any debate. Let's ha:ve that debate. Yes, I'm confident enough in my  
 941 . ability to stand up for myself. Let's have a sensible debate, let's talk about it.

942 .  
 943 . [((audience applause))  
 944 . ]

945 .  
 946 . David Okay. You, sir, on the right there.

947 .  
 948 . Q2 Yeah. Er if Labour and Conservatives are going to follow this policy, or want to follow this  
 949 . policy of limiting immigration (.) how are they going to do that whilst they're still part of  
 950 . the EU?=  
 951 .

952 . Douglas =Absolutely=  
 953 .

954 . Q2 =And also, why have we not already taken on what Ken said, and stopped benefits and  
 955 . people who are coming for um (.) benefit tourism, like Germany have already done.  
 956 . Germany have just been taken to court, and have won their court case. They're already  
 957 . doing it, they were brave enough to do it.

958 .  
 959 . David Douglas Carswell.

960 .  
 961 . Douglas You're absolutely right. The two mainstream parties, who for a generation have governed  
 962 . this country I should say two and a half mainstream parties have fa:iled to control  
 963 . immigration. And they now expect us to believe that we can control who comes here and  
 964 . remain within the EU, and that's simply not tru↑e. What they're trying to do is divert  
 965 . this into a debate to suggest that somehow UKIP is- is anti-immigrant. I actually look at  
 966 . Switzerland, which is outside the European Union, where one in five workers are non-  
 967 . Swiss, with admiration. I would love to have all the benefits of labour mobility, with  
 968 . democratic control. And on Swiss National Day, a country that's made up of lots of  
 969 . different heritages and traditions feels really uni↑ted. I want that for this country. But we  
 970 . can't have that if we remain in the European Un↑ion.

971 .  
 972 . Dia I really think where the debate should be is when we have any sort of shortage of skills in  
 973 . this country, we need to see how we can best fill that shortage. Now, say for example  
 974 . there's a shortage of, I don't know, heart surgeons in the NHS. It doesn't matter one bit to

975 . me whether that shortage is being filled by, say, and Indian doctor, or a Bulgarian doctor. It  
976 . shouldn't matter. That's how I think we should tackle this debate=

977  
978 . David =But what about the right for workers to move to the UK, because of membership of the  
979 . EU? Or are you against membership of the EU?

980  
981 . Dia Well, as it stands, membership of the EU means that the national government doesn't have  
982 . control of its borders.

983  
984 . Andy I think that's an important right, because it benefited British citizens in the past. My dad  
985 . worked abroad in the '80s and '90s because he couldn't find work here, and many other  
986 . British people did. I have to say to you, sir, I think you're kind of portraying it as though  
987 . it's a one-way street, as though people only come and take away. There's lots of British  
988 . people working abroad round Europe [now]

989  
990 . Douglas [But] don't pretend we can control it if we [stay in]

991  
992 . Andy [and that] is a benefit for them. So I think it's a bigger picture than [Douglas and yourself  
993 . are putting over]

994  
995 . Douglas [B- but Andy, don't,  
996 . don't pretend we can – don't pretend we can control immigration if we stay in the EU.

997  
998 . [((audience applause))  
999 . ]

1000  
1001 . ??? How many of those are claiming benefits abroad?

1002  
1003 . Ken Neither Andy nor I wish to stop the free movement of labour. It's good for our economy, if  
1004 . plenty of young Brits take advantage of it on the Continent. And we've got international  
1005 . companies, we've got a global economy. We've got a modern economy, every Western  
1006 . economy has this kind of reform.

1007  
1008 . David But Douglas Carswell [says]

1009  
1010 . Douglas [You] cannot [control]

1011  
1012 . David [Douglas] Carswell says you can't control  
1013 . [immigration]

1014  
1015 . Douglas [You can't co]ntrol it if you stay in the EU. [No, you can't].  
1016 .

1017 . Ken [Of course you c-]

1018  
1019 . David How?

1020  
1021 . Ken Well (.) you can control it by stopping people coming here having benefit, by having an  
1022 . habitual residence test. But it is not undesirable (.) that there's a two-way flow, Brits  
1023 . going to the Continent, [people coming here]

1024  
1025 . David [No, but you didn't s]ay, you said you can control it, and you've  
1026 . [attacked La]bour you've attacked Labour for saying they want a two-year moratorium  
1027 . before benefits=

1028  
1029 . Ken [I- I- I uh I ] =Well, UKIP has no idea how to control it. [They go on]

1030  
1031 . David [no but do you]

1032  
1033 . Douglas But we do have, we do, [we want to leave the European Union, and have an Australian-  
1034 . type System. We're being frank and h]onest, Ken

1035  
1036 . Ken [You read about it, you just read out a carefully-scripted policy,  
1037 . which you and Nigel wrote this afte[r]no[n] (.) all because Mark Reckless got you in a  
1038 . mess]] UKIP has no more [[[idea about whether it's sending people back, or how it's  
1039 . going to deport people]]]

1040  
1041 . [((audience applause))  
1042 . ]]

1043  
1044 . Douglas [[[You can say that as much as you like, but we cannot control  
1045 . immigration while we]]] rema[in in the EU]

1046  
1047 . Yasmin [Your colleag]ue said sorry, Douglas, much as I like you.  
1048 . Your colleague said (.) he wants to deport European migrants. Don't tell me he didn't  
1049 . [mea:n it.]

1050  
1051 . Douglas [No, he d]id [not]=

1052  
1053 . Andy [He d]id=

1054  
1055 . Yasmin =He did, he did say that. Now, either he was on another wo::rld=

1056  
1057 . Andy =He was tired, [Yasmin]

1058  
1059 . Yasmin [a bit tip]sy, why did he say it if he didn't mean it?

1060  
1061 . Douglas He did not (.) he talked about transitional arrangements. He spoke very clumsily. He does  
1062 . not believ[e in] repatriating people from Europe. [Absolutely not.]

1063  
1064 . Yasmin [hhhh] [And you admi]re Austra↑lia. Australia,



1065 . who has put asylum seekers on boats, and is treating human beings worse than dogs. You  
1066 . admire A[ustra<sup>l</sup>ia? It shows your true colours.]

1067  
1068 . [((audience applause)) ]

1069  
1070 . David [All right, hang on ]

1071  
1072 . Ken We can't be like Australia, we haven't got the islands to put them on. We had that before=  
1073  
1074 . Yasmin =SCOTland!

1075  
1076 . David All right, [now hold on Wait, I want]

1077  
1078 . Ken [It's the abuse of immigrat]ion which we [are] doing, if we have a sensible  
1079 debate=

1080  
1081 . David [Ken]. [I did say the point of] this  
1082 . programme is the audience gets a chance, as well. You, sir=

1083  
1084 . [((audience laughter))]

1085  
1086 . Ken =I was replying to the chap there.

1087  
1088 . David Yes, yes. Please.

1089  
1090 . Q3 Er one thing, and I think we're missing the point here, it's a global village that we live in at  
1091 . the moment (.) An:d we're talking it's a very dangerous time,. So we need to look at  
1092 . history, and how we looked at previous recessions. Straight away, it's always immigrants  
1093 . are blamed for it. Righ[t? (1) If we come out of] Europe, there'd be more job losses,  
1094 . which would create more friction. We're too busy focusing on these issues, where it's  
1095 . about- listen, to solve the problem (.) it's the benefits side of it, and that's the way you need  
1096 . to do it. And it needs to be, the EU could be part of that solution, by making universal (.) to  
1097 . quote the Tories (.) universal credit across the who<sup>l</sup>e of the European Community, to have  
1098 . the same level playing field of benefits. Then you'd have less migration all over the place.  
1099 . People would stay where they wanted to be.

1100  
1101 . [((audience applause))]

1102  
1103 . David The woman there, with spectacles.

1104  
1105 . Q4 er::m I'm sick and tired of watching this programme every week, and being told we need  
1106 . to have a debate about immigration. We've been having one, we're having one now.

1107  
1108 . Yasmin Exactly.

1109  
1110 . Q4 It seems like all we talk about is immigration. And UKIP are to blame, and their thei- it's a  
1111 . self-perpetuating cycle, because they're feeding more fear, which means Labour are now to  
1112 . blame, as well. It's ridiculous. All we seem to talk about is immigration. What about  
1113 . welfare state being dismantled? What about the NHS? Immigrants are not the problem, the  
1114 . NHS wouldn't (.) run without them. And I'm sorry, should we be electing well, not us  
1115 . but should we be electing to Parliament a man who becomes racist when he's tired?

1116  
1117 . ((Audience applause))

1118  
1119 . David You, sir.

1120  
1121 . Q5 Er as a Conservative, I think that David Cameron has tried to legislate into Parliament the  
1122 . idea of having a referendum. And secondly, I think Labour's created that animosity,  
1123 . because the New Labour apparatchik Andrew Neather actually admitted that mass  
1124 . immigration from 2004 onwards was an attempt to rub the right's nose in diversity, and  
1125 . render their arguments useless and out of date.

1126  
1127 . David Okay. And you, sir, here on the right.

1128  
1129 . Q6 I think that the two main parties are running scared from UKIP because of the advances  
1130 . that they've made. And the only reason they're interested in changing the policies (.) is  
1131 . because they want the UKIP voters b↑ack.

1132  
1133 . David And is that sane or foolish of them, to want them back?

1134  
1135 . Q6 I think it's foolish, because I used to be a Conservative voter, and now I'm a UKIP voter,  
1136 . and that won't ever change.

1137  
1138 . ((Audience applause))

1139  
1140 . David So you won't be tempted back?

1141  
1142 . Q6 No.

1143  
1144 . Yasmin Can I say something that's never been said? For the first time in my life, I'm rooting for  
1145 . the Tories. [I REALLY AM, because (.) UKI↑P scare]s me that much.

1146  
1147 . [((Audience applause)) ]

1148  
1149 . David All right. Anthony Fenton, quick question from you, and then we'll move on to another  
1150 . topic.

1151  
1152 . Q7 If UKIP win today's by-election, are we likely to see more defections to the party?

1153

1154 . David You can answer this one, Douglas, of course, can't you.

1155  
1156 . Douglas We will see mass defections, yes. But I'm not talking about amongst the establishment in  
1157 . Westminster, frankly I don't really care what MPs do any more. I'm talking about the mass  
1158 . switching of votes in six months' time.

1159  
1160 . David So you don't=

1161  
1162 . Douglas =We've had the same two and a half parties running this party, and the country is governed  
1163 . in the interests of vested interests. We need political reform. The lady earlier asked, can we  
1164 . talk about something other than immigration? In Clacton, we fought a by-election on a  
1165 . programme of far-reaching political reform. We can be governed by better than what we  
1166 . have in Westminster at the moment. I think we're seeing more and more people from both  
1167 . lef↑t and right coming together who want real change. And I think next May, in the general  
1168 . election, we can see mass defections to UKIP.

1169  
1170 . [((Some aud]ience applause))

1171  
1172 . David [Anthony Fe]nton, I think you meant MPs defecting, did you?

1173  
1174 . Q7 I meant MPs.

1175  
1176 . David You meant MPs. Ken Clare, you can see any Tory MPs=

1177  
1178 . Ken =I don't think so. And frankly, I was not surprised by Douglas and Mark, once UKIP er the  
1179 . UKIP wave started, when we all got on to immigration, and this strange body called  
1180 . Migration Watch supported them, and saying a million Bulgarians were going to hit these  
1181 . shores on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. I think Keith Vaz found one. But from then on we've had this  
1182 . hysterical debate. But Mark was not opposed by UKIP at the last general election.  
1183 . Douglas was not opposed by UKIP at the last general election. Neither of them are  
1184 . expressing opinions which are very different to the opinions they've been expressing for  
1185 . the last four years in Parliament. Now I don't think there's anybody else in Parliament  
1186 . quite like that.

1187  
1188 . Douglas We'll see.

1189  
1190 . Ken And I don't know, I don't know, but I don't think that matters as much, as what (.) going  
1191 . back to the last question (.) getting the deba:te ri[ght. We h]ave all kinds of [other things to  
1192 . do. The two major] parties h[ave got to loo]k like serious parties of government. And stop  
1193 . handing over to a populist party [going on about immigration]

1194 .

1195  
1196 . David [All right.]

1197 .  
1198 . Andy [Have we got  
1199 . time for this one?]

1200  
1201 . David [Go on then]

1202 [The question is, are there] going to be defections=

1203

1204 Andy =I think there might be. Because what I've noticed in the last few days, is Ken's been

1205 speaking about Europe, so was Sir John Major. And they were talking a lot of sense, if I'm

1206 (.) honest. And what strikes me is, they are isolated, now, in the modern Tory party, and I

1207 see the Tory party in Parliament as going dancing to UKIP's tune, to be honest. I also, you

1208 know, they're talking about giving the NHS over to insu<sup>↑</sup>rance companies, that women

1209 returning from maternity leave aren't worth as much. There's a ratcheting-up here of the

1210 right wing rhetoric, and lots of modern Tories are attracted to it. I think they will see

1211 defections, further defections, because the Parliamentary Conservative Party is heading in

1212 that [direction, an]d it's a very dangerous thing.

1213

1214 David [All right D]ia.

1215

1216 Dia I actually wonder whether we're going to see defection, to make things a little bit more

1217 interesting, from the La<sup>↑</sup>bour Party as well. Because we've seen that, you know, UKIP's

1218 taking quite a few votes from the Labour Party now as well, in the north they're doing

1219 rather well, they're a proper threat. So what do you thi<sup>↑</sup>nk, Andy? Do you think some of

1220 your colleagues might be tempted, given what Yvette Cooper is now saying, it's a little bit

1221 UKIP-y now=

1222

1223 Andy =I think when people see Farage saying, on [video], "I want to give the NHS budget to

1224 insurance companies," no (.) n[ot one single Labour person] i:n:: th[is country would put

1225 their name to that]

1226

1227 Dia [ya::h]

1228

1229 Douglas [As opposed to PFI contracts?]

1230

1231 [((Audience applause)) ]

1232

1233 David That may be a subject we'll come to, so let's go on. ((continues))

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***Question Time (6<sup>th</sup> November 2014) Middlesbrough***

1234 David We'll sti<sup>↑</sup>ck with politics and sti<sup>↑</sup>ck with one of the key issues that were mentioned a

1235 minute ago. Paul Everest please, Paul Everest.

1236

1237 How does the panel see the UK in fifty years time with immigration the way it's comin.

1238 Two hundred and fifty thous:and a year are coming in, it IS changin' our society.

1239

1240 David how does the UK look in fifty years time if the number stay at current level. Mel- Phillips.

1241

1242 Melanie well if it does stays around the current level erm it's going to look er very different. But I

1243 think it's looking very different no<sup>↑</sup>w. I mean I think that erm, there was er a polic<sup>↑</sup>y under

1244 the previous Labour administration to change the makeup of the country, e::rm to

1245 become a multicultural society, I think that was an ideological perspective that was er put  
 1246 into practice (.) for two reasons. First of all because it was better to be multicultural that  
 1247 you would kind of er break down bigotry and prejudice and secondly (.) er because it was  
 1248 thought it was economically er it made economic sense. Now I personally think both those  
 1249 er judgements e:r were unwi:se. Because noone ever asked the British people if they  
 1250 wanted their national identity to be changed. Now you can't get something more  
 1251 fundamental than national identity. What wo↑rries me about immigration is this. And I  
 1252 speak as the granddaughter and a great granddaughter of immigrants who came to Britain  
 1253 on the turn of the twentieth Century. Erm so I know better than er anybody really, whe- or  
 1254 most people- many people that immigrants bring a great deal to a country, and should be  
 1255 welcomed. But it should be in proportion, it has to be a:r sensibly managed. Because if you  
 1256 have the right number of immigrants coming in from cultures that are very different, you  
 1257 can assimilate and accommodate them (.) perfectly reasonably and they add a great deal to  
 1258 our society. But if you take in too many too quickly, erm from too many cultures which are  
 1259 very different, e:r not apart from anything else if they don't have English as a first  
 1260 language, you can very quickly overwhelm the public services erm which can't cope, the  
 1261 health services, erm doctors, erm the schools. Er:m schools can't cope with all the  
 1262 languages being spoken and so on and so forth. And you also make it very difficult for er  
 1263 the host society to assimilate them, to become British. Which I think is terribly important.  
 1264 Erm=

1265  
 1266 David =okay

1267  
 1268 Melanie because if you have too many coming in, then you lose sense of we all share in a national  
 1269 project=

1270  
 1271 David =and you apply this to erm immigration from within the European Union, as much as  
 1272 from outside.

1273  
 1274 Melanie well it's simply a question of numbers. Erm it's simply a question of numbers of too many  
 1275 people. We are a very overcrowded island. And our public services quite obviously er  
 1276 some in particularly er some areas ar ur ur- are particularly in difficulty and others er in  
 1277 less difficulty. erm but it's quite clear to me if you take in too many too quick, as we have  
 1278 done too quickly, you simply overwhelm public services where↑ver they come from.

1279  
 1280 David you sir

1281  
 1282 Q2 Can I touch on a point Charles said? Charles, you said about politics offering hope to the  
 1283 people.

1284  
 1285 Charles Mm.

1286  
 1287 Q2 None of you three parties offer me an↑y hope, and you haven't for yea:rs. [UKIP represent  
 1288 my views now], and why does David Cameron kee↑p kidding us that he's going to do a  
 1289 deal with the EU on immigration? Merkel's come out and said it. They've all come out and  
 1290 said it. We're not stu:pid. We're not stupid. It's a new time tha- whether you believe in  
 1291 UKIP or not, I'm so glad, and I thank God, that UKIP have stirred all you parties up,  
 1292 because they hadn't have, I don't know what you- you wouldn't be looking us in the face  
 1293 and thinking there's a problem. You're just in your cosy little words=

1294  
 1295  
 1296  
 1297  
 1298  
 1299

[((audience  
 applause))]

=((a[udience applause]))

1300 Charles [I ur=  
1301  
1302 David [=don't know I want] Douglas Alexander. Melanie started by saying it was a Labour  
1303 deliberate policy to increase immigration, and you've just heard what the gentleman there  
1304 has said. What's your view?  
1305  
1306 Douglas I don't disagree, frankly, with Melanie's characterisation, but we've been very explicit  
1307 and open in saying that mistakes were made. We did underestimate the number of people  
1308 who would come in after Eastern Europe joined the European Union, and Ed Miliband  
1309 has been very explicit about that. To take the longer view of the question, I'll be honest  
1310 with you I think immigration has, over the centuries, brought immense benefits to our  
1311 country. Nobel Prize winners, Olympic medallists, founders of some of our greatest  
1312 companies, and it will continue to be important to our country in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.  
1313  
1314 David On the scale that the [scale that the questioner mentioned]. On the scale the questioner  
1315 mentioned, which was 250,000 net immigrants.  
1316  
1317 Douglas [let me finish ((inaudible ))] Well, frankly, I don't think that  
1318 you can predict now, over the next 50 years, what net flows of migration are going to be,  
1319 but as I was coming on to say, because immigration has been important, and whatever  
1320 any politician says, will continue to be important, it has to be fair, and that means it needs  
1321 to be managed properly. I think part of the reason there is such discontent and anxiety is  
1322 because people don't feel that the right steps are being taken, or frankly, were taken under  
1323 the last government. We've got a situation today where there's 175,000 people here in  
1324 Britain here illegally. That's not fair, and that's not right, and it's understandable that  
1325 people are concerned about immigration when that's happened. There are more pressures  
1326 on public services in some parts of the country than in other parts of the country. That's an  
1327 issue that needs to be looked at. The issue of integration, that Melanie mentioned, I think  
1328 is fundamental. If you're a public servant, working in Britain, facing the public, you should  
1329 be able to speak English. In that sense, I think the right way forward, to recognise the  
1330 reality of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is to have proper controls to have managed migration, and those  
1331 are the kind of steps I think our government needs to take.  
1332  
1333 David Okay. And within the EU, you accept that nothing can be done?  
1334  
1335 Douglas No, I don't accept that at all. That's part of=  
1336  
1337 David =Do you think you can cut the numbers down from the EU?  
1338  
1339 Douglas Well, let's look at some of the steps that you can take. You can make it necessary for  
1340 people to make a contribution to the benefits system here in Britain before they take from  
1341 the benefits system in Britain. You can stop employment agencies, as I heard in Rochester  
1342 this week, hiring people from elsewhere in the European Union for wages significantly  
1343 below that being paid to British workers. There are practical steps that other European  
1344 countries incidentally, including Germany (.) will support. The tragedy at the moment is  
1345 that the Prime Minister is not making that case.  
1346  
1347 David Somebody shouted out, a woman's voice, I heard. Yes, come on then. Wait a second.  
1348 Okay=  
1349  
1350 Q3 =That isn't cutting the numbers though, is it?  
1351  
1352 Douglas Well, there are factors that bring people to Britain, and if you say, for example, with the  
1353 benefits system, "We're not going to make sure that you are able to claim work-  
1354 [related benefits shortly after coming to the United Kingdom], that would have an effect.  
1355  
1356 Q3 [Yes, but the fact is, as long as we remain within the EU] David Cameron has proven it  
1357 this week. As long as we remain in the EU, we have no say over the amount of people who  
1358 can come.  
1359

1360 David All right. The man behind you, with spectacles, in the third row. You, sir. Third row from  
1361 the back, yes.  
1362

1363 Q4 Given that it's emerged this week that EU immigrants have put in £5 billion more than  
1364 they have taken out of the UK economy, does this not show=  
1365  
1366 =((audience applause [ ] ))  
1367

1368 Q4 [Does this not sho:w] that the UKIP bluster (.) about anti-  
1369 immigration is nothing more than scaremongering.  
1370  
1371 ((audience applause))  
1372

1373 Matt I agree with what you say, but I think some factors are more than economical. I think there  
1374 are genuine tensions caused by some immigrant communities by failing to integrate, these  
1375 are real, and I'm coming from a position where I completely agree with you. There are  
1376 issues about people not learning the language; there are issues of trust, where we feel like  
1377 people aren't entering into the British way of li:fe, but the biggest problem I have isn't that  
1378 we allowed immigrants to come in, because I support it. It's that we absolutely fai↑led to  
1379 defend it. To allow such a big change to happen to our society, and to have a government  
1380 at the time in Tony Blair, that I'm a big supporter of fail to make the case, because the  
1381 reason why UKIP are thriving now one of the reasons is we have been buried under a  
1382 deluge in this country of anti-EU propaganda, anti-immigrant propaganda. The reality is,  
1383 you asked where we'll be in 50 years' time, the original question. I think the only way  
1384 we're going to get the deficit down is continue to have the sort of immigration that we've  
1385 had for the last ten  
1386  
1387 ((audience applause))  
1388

1389 David Okay. Brandon Lewis.  
1390

1391 Brandon Well, I do think, actually, we have to be very balanced about this. I actually think there is a  
1392 huge advantage from the immigration- the migration we have in this country, but as  
1393 politicians, we have to represent the people who ele↑ct us. We have to remember that, and  
1394 there is a concern out there. That's why I do think it's important that we have the changes  
1395 we've had with welfare, to make it less attractive for people to come here if they're not  
1396 contributing, but most of the people who come to this country come here to work. One of  
1397 the things is our success we've created almost two million jobs over the last four years.  
1398 That's more than pretty much the rest of Europe put together. Three quarters of those have  
1399 gone to British nationals, I have to say, as well I think it's important to remember that.  
1400 But in terms of the gentleman's point earlier on, in terms of what can David Cameron  
1401 deliver. Well, I would say judge somebody by what they have done, what they have shown  
1402 they can do. David Cameron is the Prime Minister who used the veto, he's the Prime  
1403 Minister who got us out of the bailout, and got the budget cut in Europe. I think he will get  
1404 the renegotiation we want to see, and when you talk about Angela Merkel, actually, if you  
1405 look at the entire quote, what Angela Merkel said, as Douglas said, she also did recognise  
1406 there are issues with the problems that they have got in Germa↑ny, and one of the key  
1407 things with migration is it's migration of labour. People who come here to contribute to our  
1408 society, learn English and integrate, are a real asset to us. I think we've got to be really up-  
1409 front about that=  
1410

1411 David =What did she mean when she said, "We have the basic principle of free movement. We  
1412 won't meddle with that." Angela Merkel. What did that mean, if it didn't mean you can't  
1413 meddle with it?  
1414

1415 Brandon Well, I think you've also got to look at the rest of the sentence, where she talks about,  
1416 "And we have got problems." She also talks- and actually, the free movement within  
1417 Europe is about free movement of labour. I think when you look at it in that context, where  
1418 people coming here to contribute- and let's remember, there are people from Britain, in  
1419 my constituency, in the energy industry, taking their skills and expertise overseas, as well.

1420 [I think it's really important]

1421

1422 David [Sorry are you saying it's the free movement of labour, not the free movement of people,

1423 that is enshrined in the EU? Is that what you're saying?]

1424

1425 Brandon Yes. I think it's the free movement of labour that we have to remember. It's labour it's

1426 about people coming here to contribute to our economy and be part of our communities.

1427

1428 David Well, what about all the people who go and live in Spain in retirement? They're not

1429 movement of labour, and that's under the EU.

1430

1431 Brandon Well, no, and that's the point I'm making this is not a one-way thing. We have got roughly

1432 two million British nationals who are living overseas as well. This is not a [one-way street]

1433

1434 David [I thought you]

1435 were saying that only people who came here to work would be allowed in under the EU

1436 regulations.

1437

1438 Brandon No. What I'm saying is people who come here and contribute to our society can benefit

1439 from our society, so if we look at the welfare system, the changes we're making means that

1440 people cannot come here to go on the benefits system, and I think it's quite right, if people

1441 move from Britain overseas, they shouldn't in those countries, either.

1442

1443 David Charles Kennedy.

1444

1445 Charles heh, the irony in all of this is, of course, the biggest champion of the single market, and she

1446 did a great deal to advance it, was one Mrs Margaret Thatcher, when she was Prime

1447 Minister. [How ironic was that? And that that's] a little fact of history that there's quite a

1448 few folk, very vocal in British politics, that would rather not talk about, or people didn't

1449 remember. That's point one. Point two I do not agree with Melanie's or (.) idea, viewpoint,

1450 that somehow a multicultural society, which is what we've become- and I welcome that

1451 fact. I happen to think we're a much richer, more diverse, better society, precisely because

1452 we are multicultural. And I feel that as a Scot living within the UK (.) I feel that as a

1453 Highlander living within Scotland. I know about all these various levels of identity, and I

1454 think that it's an immense benefit to us as peoples living within the United Kingdom. It's

1455 not a political project. It's the natural outcome of people coming from other countries and

1456 contributing to ours, and the point the gentleman made is absolutely correct this most

1457 recent report simply confirmed what has been the case for decades; that there is a net

1458 financial benefit to our country by havi[ng people coming]. The gentleman who supports

1459 UKIP, who said they offer the best hope, and is shouting "Rubbish." I'm afraid, sir, your

1460 hopes are going to be sorely dashed by UKIP [I have made that prediction]

1461

1462 [((some audience applause)) ]

1463 Q2 [inaudible ]

1464 [((audience applause)) ]

1465

1466 David Have your go. Why- why- w- why is Mr Kennedy talking rubbish?

1467

1468 Q2 Well, I didn't shout that, but he actually is.

1469

1470 David Oh, I see. Oh, but he a[ctually is? I see].

1471

1472 Charles [Well, that's two]

1473

1474 Q5 There were two reports out (.) er: one that said there was a net er: benefit to Britain, but

1475 there was another one that went back five years longer, and it said there was a net take; a

1476 net loss, so they're using the figures that they want, like they normally do. Typical

1477 politicians use the reports they want, and not take into account (.) But I'd also like to say

1478 [that UKIP are not against immigration.] We believe we need immigration (Laughter). We

1479 cannot run this country without immigration. We accept that, and the UKIP policy is that



1480 we would have controlled immigration on a points- on a points-based system. That would  
1481 [bring people in that we] need, the skills that we need. We don't need people here to fill  
1482 shelves or to do normal jobs. [We need people the doctors and nurses], engineers, etc., and  
1483 that is what UKIP policy is, and it's not portrayed because he's=  
1484  
1485  
1486 [laughter ]  
1487  
1488 Brandon [That's what you've got.] [We've got the toughest system in the world].  
1489  
1490 David =All right. Okay. You've had your say, sir. Who was it shouting out there? Go on, then.  
1491 We'll just hear from you.  
1492  
1493 Q6 The only way UKIP can change anything is if they get MP↑s. How many MPs are you  
1494 going to get at the next election? 5, 10, maybe? [You're not going to get a] majority to be  
1495 able to change anything. I've spoken to (.) the amount of MEPs- do you know how many  
1496 MEPs that UKIP have just elected that are already trying to stand for Parliament next year?  
1497 It's about 30% to 35%, and why are they doing that? Because they can't do anything in the  
1498 European Parliament. They want to come here (.) they want to become MPs in Parliament  
1499 to change things. You're not going to get enough MPs to be able to change anything.  
1500  
1501 Q2 [Another one in two weeks]  
1502  
1503 David Okay. [Douglas Alexander]  
1504  
1505 [((audience applause))]  
1506  
1507 Douglas Let me explain to you why I disagree with UKIP. Of course, youth unemployment in  
1508 particular is a hu:ge problem, not just in my community, but in the North East and right  
1509 across the country. But we have to accept the fact that, since the Berlin Wall came down,  
1510 about two billion more workers have joined the global labour market. The only future for  
1511 our young people in Britain is not to blame immigrants for taking jobs, but to open  
1512 schoolbooks, to get skills, to get training, and to be able to compete in the global markets  
1513 that we're going to face in the f[uture]. And anybody who tells you that your son or your  
1514 daughter is going to have a job if you stop immigrants is selling you a li:e, when the reality  
1515 is that we're now competing with people in China, India, right around the world, for  
1516 economic talent and for economic success. And the way we're going to prosper is we're  
1517 going to prosper together by raising our levels of skills and competing effectively in the  
1518 international market.  
1519  
1520 David [Right] I want to move on to another question. Just before I  
1521 do that, there's a number of hands up and I'd like to hear not from the panel, but from  
1522 members of audience. The person there, on the left (.) the woman behind you. Yes.  
1523  
1524 Q7 Hello. This is a question to Melanie=  
1525  
1526 David =No, just make a statement, if you would, because Melanie has had [her fair say]  
1527  
1528 Q7 [right okay] Well,  
1529 basically, I think it's dangerous to start talking about different cultures. I think that  
1530 infers biological difference, and it's a very dangerous line to walk (.) um and yes, I think  
1531 that's something that UKIP have done to proliferate their ideas, and I don't think it's  
1532 beneficial in the discussion about immigration.  
1533  
1534 ((some audience applause))  
1535  
1536 David Okay, and you, sir, in the gangway. No, the man in the second row.  
1537  
1538 Q8 Erm I fully agree that diversity within society does add value, and I think rather than  
1539 stigmatising people coming into the country, really, truly assess what value they do have to

1540 our society. What value are they going to bring, and how can we fully assess that, so that  
 1541 British society can fully benefit from people moving into the cou<sup>n</sup>try? Also, I think what  
 1542 we need to consider, as well, is how we fully address immigrants coming into the country  
 1543 illeg<sup>a</sup>lly (.) how we can fully address that side of it, as well. Ethnic diversity is really  
 1544 important, but we've got to fully assess its value to our society.  
 1545  
 1546 David Okay. I think- thank you very much. I think we'll move onto another question. Thank you  
 1547 very much. ((continues))

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***Question Time (16<sup>th</sup> October 2014) Newbury***

1548 David Tonight, we're in Newbury in Berkshire, and welcome to '*Question Time*'. (music: 8) As  
 1549 always, a big welcome to you at home, to our audience, and to our panel. The Conservative  
 1550 Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt (.) Labour's Shadow Leader of the House of Commons,  
 1551 Angela Eagle (.) the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, Min Campbell (.) the political  
 1552 commentator Isabel Oakshot, currently co-authoring a biography of David Cameron (.) and  
 1553 the parish priest and broadcaster, Giles Fraser.

1554  
 1555 (Music and applause: 10)

1556  
 1557 David Thank you very much. Now, remember you can join in from home by text or Twitter. Our  
 1558 hashtag, #BBCQT; follow us @bbcquestiontime, and if you want to text us, 8391 use  
 1559 the red button and I hope your television doesn't explode, and you can see what others are  
 1560 saying. Let's take the first question which comes from Graham Oliver, please. Graham  
 1561 Oliver.

1562  
 1563 Graham Ca:n David Cameron put an emergency brake on immigration?

1564  
 1565 David David Cameron was talking about immigration today. Can he put an emergency brake on  
 1566 it? Angela Eagle.

1567  
 1568 Angela Well, there were some big headlines about emergency brakes today, and I think it's no  
 1569 coincidence that they emerge just as the Rochester and Strood by-election is getting  
 1570 underway, and we've got a Prime Minister that's running scared of UKIP. So I looked at  
 1571 the story in great detail to see what the actual proposals were, and there are actually  
 1572 weren't any (.) there was just a load of wishful thinking about what he wanted to do. So I  
 1573 think we'll have to wait and see: whether it's (.) more hot air and headlines with no content  
 1574 or whether there'll actually be some approach that might wo:rk. I think this government's  
 1575 got for<sup>l</sup>m when it comes to making big promises about immigration and not delivering. I  
 1576 mean, he promised – before the election he said, "No ifs, no buts. We will reduce net  
 1577 migration". Net migration figures are exactly the same now as they were at the beginning  
 1578 of this Parliament=

1579  
 1580 David =Do you think he should reduce net migration?=  
 1581

1582 Angela =Well, I think there are some things that you can actually do that I'd like to see the  
 1583 government make progress on instead of just make empty headlines. The first is that they  
 1584 should be in favour of fair but not free European Union immigration, and you can start to  
 1585 achieve that by re-negotiating directives on whose (.) can get hold of benefits like Child  
 1586 Benefit a- and uh (.) Child Tax Credit. They shouldn't be available to people whose

1587 children aren't living in this country, and you could try and re-negotiate that without any  
1588 kind of treaty change. You could look at exploitation in the labour market. You could ban  
1589 employment agencies, as Labour says, from employing just foreign workers. You could  
1590 ensure that the minimum wage was much better enforced than it is, and zero-hours  
1591 contracts weren't er (.) used to exploit workers. There's a whole load of things that you  
1592 could actually do. You could change the rules in the UK on deportation of foreign  
1593 criminals no↑w. You don't need EU agreement to do that. So there's a lot they could be  
1594 doing that they aren't actually doing.

1595  
1596 David All right, that's a long list. Jeremy, do you want to add to that list or would it be sufficient  
1597 just to achieve what Angela Eagle has described?

1598  
1599 Jeremy Well, to answer what the question was if anyone can put a break on immigration it's David  
1600 Ca↑meron, and I think we have to be clear and say that er we welcome the fact that we  
1601 have people from all over the world in this country my own wife is Chine:se and I think  
1602 that we gain a lot as a society from the contribution made by people from all over the  
1603 world. But er what we ha:d=

1604  
1605 David =Why is David Cameron the only person who can put a brake on it?

1606  
1607 Jeremy Because he's got a track record of delivering when it comes to Europe. I think if you look  
1608 At (.) I don't agree with what Angela said=

1609  
1610 Angela =The net migration figures [haven't been delivered]

1611  
1612 Jeremy [When she says the gov]ernment's done nothing, Theresa May  
1613 has actually reduced migration levels from outside the EU back down to the levels that we  
1614 had in the 1990s. What's been more difficult, because we've had a situation where the  
1615 European economy has been growing much more slowly than our economy, so we've been  
1616 a magnet for people from inside the EU, and under the current rules of the EU we can't do  
1617 anything about that. Now, what David Cameron has said very clearly is that he wants to  
1618 ta↓lk about that, and he's also said that if he's not successful in the short-term, if he  
1619 remains Prime Minister, he will renegotiate our membership of the EU and put that to a  
1620 vote of the British people. Now, I think that gives him a very good chance of getting a  
1621 better deal when it comes to free movement of people, because we do want the benefits of  
1622 people who are able and talented who can contribute to the British economy, but we don't  
1623 want this uncontro:lled immigration and we di↑d have that before (.) and I think (.) the  
1624 British people think enough is enough.

1625  
1626 David But there are those who say this won't be possible, and I see the Prime Minister said that  
1627 he um (.) I quote him, he wanted, "One last go at negotiating a better deal". Is the  
1628 implication of that that if it doesn't work he will ur:ge the British people to vote out of  
1629 Europe? Because 'one last go' normally means if you fail, you then do something else.

1630  
1631 Jeremy Well, I interpreted those comments to be what he was going to try and do ahead of a re-  
1632 negotiation. I think the real moment where we would talk turkey about this is when there's  
1633 a prospect of a referendum, which only the Conservative Party are committed to, in 2017.  
1634 Then he says, "Well, look, one of the things that matters to the British people – we want an  
1635 open, tolerant society with social cohesion", and that means we can't have the four million  
1636 immigrants that we had in the Labour years, totally uncontrolled immigration. We have to  
1637 have our migration on a controlled, sensible basis, and he's the person who managed to  
1638 veto European treaty before. He's got a track record of- he got us out of the Euro bailout

1639 . mechanism. I'm absolutely certain he could deliver [for us].

1640

1641 . David [You say] you interpret it- he hasn't

1642 . told you what he meant by 'one last go'?

1643

1644 . Jeremy Well, you know I (.) I saw what he said and he's expressed the same sentiments in private

1645 . [as he e]xpressed in public. This is a very, [very important t]hing that he wants to negotiate

1646 . for Britain [from the EU]

1647

1648 . David [all right] [But do you have]

1649

1650 . David [yes all right I] must move around the panel, but do you have any impression

1651 . yourself that he might recommend 'get out' in th- in t- in the vote? In the referendum on

1652 . Europe? That there are circumstances where he'd say, "Get out"?

1653

1654 . Jeremy Well, if you are having a negotiation, you reserve your options if you don't get what you

1655 . want in a negotiation.

1656

1657 . David Okay. Giles Fraser

1658

1659 . Giles I wish politicians would just stop the sort of pandering to a bargain basement

1660 . prejudice about immigrants and start saying=

1661

1662 . =((Audience applause))

1663

1664

1665 . Giles I really do, and I wish people would start saying some (.) just much more positive things

1666 . about the contribution that people from other countries make to our society, and that they

1667 . enrich it, they actually make it richer. They make it more colourful and more vibrant, and,

1668 . you know, I get what Jeremy says but there isn't an inner Jeremy Clarkson there in what

1669 . you're saying, and I'm worried about it=

1670

1671 . David =What about Angela Eagle=

1672

1673 . Giles =I'm worried about well, I'm worried about it in all politicians=

1674

1675 . David =What about her, as well?

1676

1677 . Giles =I'm worried about it in all politicians at the moment (.) cos it's so easy just to sort of

1678 . follow UKIP into this sort of (.) this idea that we scapegoat those people who come from

1679 . another country when actually the big picture is one of austerity and that's not the fault of

1680 . people who come here looking for a better life and contribute to our society.

1681

1682 . David [okay. The man up there] The man up in the second row from the back, with spectacles.

1683 . You, sir.

1684  
1685 [((Audience applause)) ]

1686  
1687 Q1 I- I couldn't agree more with Giles. There's still 1.8 million British citizens who live in  
1688 other countries in the EU. We never hear about that, and I'm sick and tired of both the  
1689 Conservative Party and now the Labour Party, I'm very disappointed to see scapegoating all  
1690 of the country's ills on other people who come from other parts of the EU to work here.

1691  
1692 Angela [Sorry I  
1693 didn't scapegoat anybody from any other community at all, but I think you have to realise  
1694 that there are some pressures and issues caused by some of the problems in our labour  
1695 market, which is why I was talking about ensuring that we can enforce the minimum  
1696 wage, that we're going to for example make it illegal to exploit those who are at  
1697 work. There are legitimate concerns that people in our communities have that, as  
1698 politicians who are elected, we have a duty to represent. That is not scapegoating people.

1699  
1700 David [alright] All right, fine. Ming  
1701 Campbell?

1702  
1703 Ming Well, I'm going to try and break the political mould because I think it's time as has just  
1704 been said that people understand the enormous benefits which immigration brings. There  
1705 are very few of us here who don't have some kind of immigrant blood in us somewhere,  
1706 because this is a country to which people have come from all over the world for a very  
1707 long time.

1708  
1709 David Do you think Cameron has a chance of changing the rules in the EU?

1710  
1711 Ming No. No I mean, "Emergency brake"? What's that supposed to mean? You do something,  
1712 it stops immediately? No chance. Why? Because you make progress in Europe not  
1713 by holding a pistol to the heads of the other members but by ensuring that you build  
1714 coalitions; that you get agreement. Of course there are countries, for example like  
1715 Holland, which have a concern about immigration, and I think that what is necessary is  
1716 for us to stop trying to say, "This is a zero sum game". If you say, for example, "No more  
1717 immigration", one of the things that Jeremy would have to deal with is the fact that –  
1718 the figures suggest that there was something like 40,000 doctors in this country who came  
1719 from abroad. When was the last time you went into a hotel and you didn't hear what  
1720 you might call a 'foreign voice'? When was the last time when you were in a care home,  
1721 for example, that the people who were there were from abroad? Now, Angela makes some  
1722 very good points about the whole question of minimum wage but frankly, I want to see a  
1723 living wage. I don't want to see a [minimum wage]. [Okay] Just one last point, if I may,  
1724 and it's this if there's a problem about pressure upon housing, there's a way of dealing  
1725 with that. There's a large-scale public investment in the social housing which is  
1726 absolutely essential in this country, and for which governments of all parties and none  
1727 have failed to provide sufficient – by way of investment. If they did that then the kind of  
1728 pressure on housing, which people regard as being significant and persuasive of their  
1729 attitude, that could be removed too. Along with the whole question of the rate at which  
1730 people from outside are willing to work.

1731  
1732 [((Audience applause))]

1733  
1734 David [inaudible]

1735  
1736 David You, sir.

1737  
1738 Q2 Me? (.) I suspect it is unlikely that David Cameron will be able to reduce the immigration  
1739 from the EU, but equally, we do benefit from free movement of ou:r labour to other parts  
1740 of the EU. Could we not impro:ve the labour force coming into the country by some sort of  
1741 points-based system, as they do in Australia, I believe, so we can choose the talents and the  
1742 skills that we nee:d?

1743  
1744 David I think the question that Graham Oliver had in mind was whether Cameron was saying  
1745 something that was possible. That's presumably what you meant, isn't it, by the que↑stion?

1746  
1747 Graham Well, what he's suggesting is impossible. It's a basic (.) um tenet of the European Union  
1748 that there must be fre:e movement of labour and capital throughout all member states. He  
1749 will never achieve t[his, an]d (.) can I just finish? Because um (.) er Mr. Hunt was saying  
1750 earlier that David Cameron has been very successful in Europe. I don't think he has at a:ll.  
1751 Not in the slightest.

1752  
1753 ((audience applause)) [ ((audience applause)) ]

1754  
1755 David [isn't- ] [all right I don't want to go into his track re]cord. I want to  
1756 bring in Isabel Oakeshott. I'll bring you in later if you want to make a point. Isabel.

1757  
1758 Isabel Well, I was bemused to hear David Cameron talking about having 'one last go' at this  
1759 because I don't think he's even had one f:rst go at this. Remember, about five years ago,  
1760 Conservatives went into this election (.) in 2010 on a platform of reducing immigration to  
1761 tens of thousands, and in fact net migration is almost a quarter of a million. So they have  
1762 achieved absolutely nothing in of[fice and it rea]lly doesn't give you any confidence that  
1763 anything could be achieved ne↑xt time round. The gentleman in the audience is absolutely  
1764 right he can't put an emergency brake on this because freedom of movement is a founding  
1765 principle (.) of the EU, so it's complete pie in the sky-

1766  
1767 Jeremy [that's not true]

1768  
1769 David A voice on my right is saying that's not right. Which bit is not right?

1770  
1771 Jeremy Well, first of all, we have made progress. Net migration has been reduced by a quarter  
1772 under this government, but not as much as we want because of the numbers coming from  
1773 the EU=

1774  
1775 Isabel =But it's not tens of thousands, is it?

1776  
1777 Jeremy I think that I'd just like to answer the gentleman's point, if I may, because I think there is a  
1778 reason. First of all, David Cameron is the first Prime Minister in British history who has  
1779 vetoed a European treaty. He's shown he's prepared to do that. But much more  
1780 importantly, if he went to the other European countries and di↑dn't just say, "Please sir,  
1781 will you allow us to have better control of the migration coming from the EU?" If he said,  
1782 "This is very important to the people of Britain, and I'm going to put to a vo:te, whatever  
1783 the package is that you give us". I don't believe in that situation the other European

1784 . countries would [walk away], and I think al:so, if you look at what people like Germany  
1785 . are saying as well, they too recognise there's a real problem with, for example, benefit  
1786 . tourism, and there is a real willingness to talk about those issues. The point is David  
1787 . Cameron is the only major party leader, the only potential Prime Minister, who actually  
1788 . wants to even try to do this. If=

1789  
1790 . Ming [inaudible]

1791  
1792 . David =You use this fact, hang on a second you used what you said was a fact, that the Tories  
1793 . had reduced net migration into this country. Ho↑w do you account for last year's figures  
1794 . being up by 68,000 – or nearly 40%?

1795  
1796 . Isabel Exactly.

1797  
1798 . David You didn't mentioned that.

1799  
1800 . Jeremy Well, if you look at the overa[ll balance of net migration]

1801  
1802 . David [So it's gone down and the]n it's gone wrong, now, is what  
1803 . you're saying?

1804  
1805 . Jeremy Well, the issue we've been talking about is European migration. outside the EU, it's gone  
1806 . right back down to the 1990s levels. Now we need to do something about what's  
1807 . happening from inside the EU.

1808  
1809 . Ming But we- we've exhausted a huge amount of goodwi:ll in Europe. I mean, the assumption  
1810 . seems to be, we can go on saying, "Do this otherwise we'll go. Do this otherwise we'll  
1811 . go", and of course- in due course countries like Germany and France and Holland and  
1812 . other countries will simply say, "Okay, if that's your position then go. Don't stay. Don't  
1813 . stand in the way of [the founding principles of the Union"]

1814  
1815 . Isabel [Many voters think that's a good thing] Many [voters would say that's  
1816 . a g]ood thing

1817  
1818 . David [People might want that,  
1819 . yes]

1820  
1821 . Ming Well, they'd better understand what the consequences [are ]

1822  
1823 . David [inaudible]

1824  
1825 . Giles [We benef]it from this, as well. I  
1826 . had a taxi ride the other day. [This taxi driver]

1827  
1828 . Ming [Just before three] million jobs. Three million jobs=

1829  
1830 . Giles =This taxi driver said to me, a London cabbie, said, “There’s too much people (.)  
1831 . foreigners coming to this country. Too much immigration. I’m moving to Spain”.

1832  
1833 . ((audience lau[gh]ter, then app[ro]p[ri]ate))

1834  
1835 . David [I want to go on] because we’ve had quarter of an hour and I have to watch  
1836 . the clock, but you, sir, first (.) come to you?

1837  
1838 . Q3 I think what annoys the public about immigration the most is the case of the Latvian  
1839 . gentleman that came here, who had done eight years for murder previously, then he came  
1840 . here and committed another murder.

1841  
1842 . David The lady in spectacles there, in the middle. Yes, you, ma’am.

1843  
1844 . Q4 I would just like to say I actually moved to Spain some years ago, and why don’t we adopt  
1845 . the policy that they seem to have, where you have to have a job and a home to go↑ to, and  
1846 . if you can’t pay your way you have to come ho↑me?

1847  
1848 . David You were kicked out, were you?

1849  
1850 . Q4 Sorry?

1851  
1852 . David Were you kicked out of Spain?

1853  
1854 . ((Audience laughter))

1855  
1856 . Q4 No::, we chose to come back. Huh huh

1857  
1858 . David Oh, you chose to come back. But you had to have a job to stay there?

1859  
1860 . Q4 We needed to have a job before we could get full residencia, yes.

1861  
1862 . David Ming, you’re the great expert on Europe. Is that true?

1863  
1864 . Ming I believe so. [so]

1865  
1866 . David [So] why don’t we do the same here?

1867  
1868 . Ming Well, because governments have chosen not to do it. I do think the point made about the  
1869 . criminal who apparently had (.) or the person, I mean, he’s dead or a body has been found,  
1870 . so no-one’s quite sure as to what the precise circumstances of his death were (.) but the  
1871 . point is this that that was actually a feature of inefficiency more than anything else,



1872 . because the information was available at a time when he was charged and convicted of  
1873 . Another offence, and that wasn't put before a co[urt at that time].

1874 .  
1875 . David [All right, let's] not go down that. The  
1876 . woman here in the front row.

1877 .  
1878 . Q5 erm (.) you said that they're all coming in and stealing our jobs. I've just graduated from  
1879 . university and I'm looking for a job, and I can tell you that there are thousands of jobs out  
1880 . there; people just aren't looking for the right ones or willing to go below (.) what would be  
1881 . in their expectations. There are jobs out there (.) they're not coming in and taking them all.

1882 .  
1883 . David You're speaking about this area of Britain? Around here, or.

1884 .  
1885 . Q5 In Britain in general. I mean, there are thousands of jobs out there.

1886 .  
1887 . David All right, and the man up there in spectacles, in the second- third row from the back. Yes.  
1888 . No, not you, but the man next to you. Yes.

1889 .  
1890 . Q6 The- I think what the- er (.) emergency brake that might be being referred to is the Lisbon  
1891 . Treaty, which I believe has a clause in it that says that the free movement of Europeans can  
1892 . be suspen::ded on the grounds of erm (.) human health. So, possibly, this emergency brake  
1893 . might come more emergency than we think.

1894 .  
1895 . David Okay, and the lady here, then we must move on.

1896 .  
1897 . Q7 I can't believe (.) listening to this debate here (.) we come from North Oxfordshire, and we  
1898 . cannot believe the amount of building that's taking place and ruining our countryside. Our  
1899 . village is virtually going to double. Some of the villages around us already have. It's  
1900 . destroying village life.

1901 .  
1902 . David [And you blame immigration for this?]

1903 .  
1904 . Q7 Ye::s, because it's got a waterfall effect. People move into the inner city areas, immigrants,  
1905 . then the people from the inner cities move to the suburbs. The people from the suburbs  
1906 . move out into the countryside. What do they do? They still, a lot of them, work in London  
1907 . and the cities, so what happens to village life? They don't use the village shops. They don't  
1908 . use the village libraries. They just use us as a dormitory. It is tot- it's got to be gradual. It's  
1909 . got to be so many, and the services have got to be there for it. It's absolutely ridiculous to  
1910 . just keep pushing more people in.

1911 .  
1912 . David Do you recognise this picture?

1913 .  
1914 . Jeremy Well, that's why I think you have to have sensible, balanced, controlled immigration, and I  
1915 . don't think actually anyone on this panel is saying that we don't want to have a society  
1916 . which has a very positive role for foreigners, but it needs to be in a controlled, sustainable  
1917 . way, and that's why David Cameron is absolutely clear he wants to go back to Europe and  
1918 . make sure that we do have those controls.

1919		
1920	David	Just before we leave it what about the point that the lady there made, about <u>not</u> being able
1921		to stay in Spain because – no, not you. You had to have a job, you said.
1922		
1923	Q4	Yes, we had to have a job and somewhere to live before we could get full residencia.
1924		
1925	Jeremy	Yes, well, that is the way the law works, but=
1926		
1927	David	=In Spain, but not here=
1928		
1929	Q4	=In Spain, but not here=
1930		
1931	Jeremy	=Yes, but what happens in this country is that people do find a job because we've got a
1932		very successful economy and so the net migration figures go up and that's what David
1933		Cameron is saying needs to chance.
1934		
1935	Q8	The treaty applies to us as well. We can say, "If you haven't got a job within three months,
1936		we can ask people to leave" and it is <u>strictly</u> our own government which allows them to
1937		take benefits. Our government can stop them taking benefits.
1938		
1939	David	All right. Let=
1940		
1941	Q8	=Germany has stopped the quotas. They have rationalised it.
1942		
1943	David	Ming , last brief point to you on that.
1944		
1945	Ming	Well, I really want to pick up the residencia point because maybe that is <u>citizenship</u> , and of
1946		course you don't <u>have</u> to have British citizenship if you want to come here and work
1947		because that, after all, is a founding principle of the European Union, but it's quite <u>right</u> to
1948		say there's things that we could do. Much better to do these things and see if they work
1949		before we try and hold a pis:tol to the head of the European Union.
1950		
1951	David	Okay. Let's crack on. Adrian-

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***Question Time (8<sup>th</sup> May 2014): Southampton***

1952	David	tonight we're in Southa↑mpton and welcome to Question Time (6) good evening to you at
1953		home and welcome to our studio audience here who are going to be putting qu:estions to
1954		our panel who of <u>course</u> do <u>not</u> know the questions until they hear them (.) from your
1955		<u>lips</u> :. Two weeks to go until the local and European elections do we have five politicians
1956		(.) on our panel tonight. The conservative party cha↑rman Grant Shapps (.) labour's
1957		shadow business secretary Chuka Umunna, the liberal democrat party's former leader in
1958		the House of Lords Shirley W↑lliams, the leader of UKIP Nigel Farage and the green party
1959		MP and former leader of their party, Caroline Wilkis ((applause 8 seconds)) thank you and
1960		we begin with a question from Robert Easling please, Robert Easling

1961		
1962	Robert	does the UK need to come out of the EU (.) to stop the flow of immigrants th- living in this
1963		country.
1964		
1965	(1)	
1966		
1967	David	Chuka Umunna
1968		
1969	Chuka	look erm (.) I am the <u>son</u> of an immigrant, uh I believe immigration has brought
1970		tremendous benefits to our country, erm in the wake of the <u>w:ar</u> immigrants helped rebuild
1971		our country, a lot of our public serves would not be able to operate were it for immigrants
1972		working in them a:nd if you look at the cultural diversity and richness of our nation that
1973		immigration is bought (.) alo↑t. I think in terms of people's concerns, all that they ask is
1974		that (.) er we have properly controlled bor↓ders that we <u>don't</u> have people coming in and er
1975		undercutting ar British workers, er and they are not exploited themselves. Erm but I
1976		certainly don't think leaving the EU would be good for our econom↑y. Erm the EU is our
1977		nearest and biggest market and actually the key that unlocks the door to a lot these
1978		emer↑ging markets=
1979		
1980	David	=that overrides your concern- your party might have remembering that they <u>apologised</u> for
1981		wh[at t]hey did on immigration, on the flow of immigrants into this country.
1982		
1983	Chuka	[yes] well I don't think we got it <u>ever</u> thing right on immigration, but look. We've gone
1984		through a difficult period as a co↑untry. And economically has been very difficult for us
1985		inde↑ed coming out of the two thousand eight nine crash. And we've got some big
1986		challenges ahead. Er: <u>automation</u> , the use of computers (.) is changing the nature of jobs.
1987		And we're facing challenges from India, China and the e[merging econ]omies. And I don't
1988		think that pulling out the EU is necessary going to solve that problem. I <u>also</u> don't think
1989		doing one of those classic things that sometimes do when you're going through adversity
1990		(.) blaming ' <u>the</u> other' for the problems that we face (.) is a way of actually going to
1991		[ensure that] we succeed i[n t]he future
1992		
1993	David	[but is net mi-] but we've seen
1994		[er: I uh uh] [uh] but you've seen the latest net migration figures. Which are
1995		pretty much the size of the city of Southampton (.) last year. are those <u>numbers</u> , for you (.)
1996		acceptable? Right?
1997		
1998	Chuka	well I think we'd like to see immigration come <u>down</u> , but let's not forget by the way, we
1999		have around two million Brits <u>living</u> in the <u>EU</u> . Er: I think we have slightly more than that
2000		(.) <u>living</u> here. But do I think that coming out of the EU is going to solve the issue we
2001	haves	
2002		that we have (.) <u>competing</u> against the emerging economies? No I don't. I think to do that,
2003		we're gunna have to innovate, invest in our science base, and we've got to ensure that our
2004		people that got the skills they need (.) to succeed in the world. I don't think pulling out of
2005		the EU is going to solve that those <u>big</u> problems that we have as a country.
2006		
2007		((Audience applause))
2008	Nigel	...and <u>my</u> argument (.) that I wouldn't dispute, that controlled immigration can be a big net
2009		benefit to Britain, <u>economically</u> , and <u>culturally</u> , and everything else. But we <u>have</u> no
2010		control, and we've <u>no</u> idea, just how many people are coming, five hundred thousand are
2011		coming, <u>eight</u> hundred thousand are coming, there is <u>nothing</u> we can do. And what I would
2012		advocate is that one of the <u>big</u> benefits of not being in the European Union, is that we get

2013 back control of our borders, so that we an decide who comes to Britain. Not discriminating,  
2014 against people from India (.) and New Zealand, which we currently do, because we have an  
2015 open door to Romania and Bulgaria. Let's have our own immigration policy, and let's not  
2016 just control the quantity of people coming into this country, but the quality as well.  
2017  
2018 [((Audience applause)) ]  
2019  
2020 Chuka [lets not forget (2) lets not forget, lets not forget] (0.5) we've heard this from Nigel before.  
2021 There's going to be a catastrophe in the euro zone in the coming months (.) and according  
2022 to his posters, there's going to be twenty six million people are going to want to come  
2023 h↓ere. And remember (.) REMember what we heard fro]m you from you on Bulgaria and  
2024 Romania. You said we were going to have this hu:ge wave coming over here. That ha↑sn't  
2025 happened=  
2026  
2027 Nigel [will be able to come here]  
2028  
2029 Davis =all right thank y[ou thank you]  
2030  
2031 Nigel [have you seen] the migration figures?=  
2032  
2033 David =Nigel you made your point. Nigel. Nigel  
2034  
2035 Nigel w↑ell  
2036  
2037 David five people on th[is panel]  
2038  
2039 Nigel sorry. fair enough, but the figures are the figures D[avid you know]  
2040  
2041 David [Shirley Williams]  
2042  
2043 Shirley well I'm the third person on this panel. (0.5) Look, let's be quite honest. This country is  
2044 tremendously dependent on some of the (.) immigrants who come here. (0.2) Go into any  
2045 NHS hospital, go and have an operation, look to see who the health assistants are, look to  
2046 see who the doctors a↓re, many of them will not be from this country. Some of them will  
2047 be from other countries, some will be from other commonwealth countries. And frankly  
2048 the  
2049 NHS of which I am extremely proud, would break down without them. They have been  
2050 indispensable to it. Go into your hotels and your pubs and your cafes. Now, I'm not in  
2051 favour of the very low wages we pay people in catering, I think it should be at least the  
2052 minimum wa↓ge. But frankly they are doing the jobs that we cannot get English people to  
2053 do, because the pay is too poor. So what th=  
2054  
2055 David =are you not worried at all by the numbers of people who come. Over two hundred  
2056 thousand?  
2057  
2058 Shirley n- no it's not the case about the numbers, it's whether in fact it's the people who come here  
2059 are fitting into jobs that we need done. Our unemployment has not shored up frankly as  
2060 others said it would. (.) we have relatively low unemployment (.) for countries of our area,  
2061 like the united states. So it isn't- there are a lot of spectres around h↑ere and they're not  
2062 worth looking at very carefully, becus' a lot of them are just exactly that, they're spectres.  
2063 Let me say one other thing. What many people don't realise, is that if we didn't have, for  
2064 example, a steady flow of substantial numbers of international students (.) including  
2065 Southampton University of which I'm on dock, we would have to close one course after  
2066 the another. There aren't enough people doing technical, mathematical and economic  
2067 courses to keep them open for Brits, unless we had overseas students. Overseas students  
2068 now pay (.) a very substantial part of all the costs of our universities. Much more a much  
2069 higher cost than would be met by tuition fees. We would see tuition fees go up even further  
2070 .hh if we didn't invite overseas students. An[d FINally] a last point. One more point.]  
2071  
2072 David [thank you] all right you there yes you sir

2073  
2074  
2075  
2076 I think the policies are wrong (.) to start with, why should we able to just turn up in this  
2077 country, expect everything (.) they can get over here, .hh so why (.) why not have jobs  
2078 open  
2079 to them, yeah so they can come here, bit like Australia, or America where you get the  
2080 green  
2081 card or whatev- so you have to apply for what you get when you come here .hh don't have  
2082 an issue with the people coming over here, er with the hospitals and everything, we have a  
2083 minimum wage as well so::=  
2084  
2085 Shirley it's not one sided. I had an extremely ill close relative (0.5) he was an NHS patient, was a  
2086 Brit, he'd served- worked in the British army, he came extremely ill only last year with a  
2087 serious heart condition, he was looked after absolutely brilliantly (.) in France, and later in  
2088 Italy, and he never paid a penny, because there the common NHS card which is shared by  
2089 the whole of the European Union, which means that everyone of us who travels to Europe  
2090 will get what we'd ne↑ver get in the United States or China. We get (.) full health  
2091 [safety=  
2092  
2093 David =all right  
2094  
2095 Shirley so we really must sort out some of these lies]  
2096  
2097 David it's all right Nigel let me come back to th- the question, Grant Chapps. Then I'll come to  
2098 you two. yes  
2099  
2100 [((audience applauds)) ]  
2101  
2102 Grant does the UK need to pull out of Europe to control immigration was the question, and the  
2103 a:nswer is, we want you to have a say in this. I believe that immigration has benefited this  
2104 country. I believe that it's important to be able to travel around a free market that includes  
2105 people being able to (.) move around. I'm surprised what Ni↑gel had to say, who'd be his  
2106 se↑cretary without his German wife, for example if there was no free movement. The  
2107 question really is, what kind of free movement, and how far should it go. .h when new  
2108 countries joined the EU like what we just saw with Romania and (.) Bulgaria, we've been  
2109 arguing when countries come in and have a very different level- standard of living, there  
2110 should be a potential for a longer transition period, that's exactly the sort of thing that we  
2111 want to renegotiate with the EU, and we want to put that to a referendum (.) so not u:s, not  
2112 politicians, not Labour and the Lib Dems who I would argue who don't want to do  
2113 anything but take us further into Europe, or Nigel who can't deliver or the Conservatives  
2114 who are the people that can deliver on Europe and we can do that by giving you an in-out  
2115 referendum.  
2116  
2117 David is that giving people a say Nigel (.) in [your terms?]  
2118  
2119 Nigel [why don't y]ou tell them the t[ru↑th? Why don't  
2120 you tell them the truth that your part-]  
2121  
2122 David [you you we] what he said was [we want you to have  
2123 your say  
2124  
2125 Y- ye But the question wa↓s (.) do we have to be a part of the EU to control immigration  
2126 an- Grant says 'I haven't got an opinion, it's up to you in a referendum. B- but we've heard  
2127 all that before, David Cameron was promising one at the la:st European elections th- d-  
2128 didn't deliver. Come on, let's be honest (.) you along with Labour the Lib Dems the  
2129 Greens, .h the political establishment in Britain (.) have all voted=  
2130  
2131 Chuka =you a:re the political establishment you've [been an MP for fifteen years]  
2132

I think the policies are wrong (.) to start with, why should we able to just turn up in this country, expect everything (.) they can get over here, .hh so why (.) why not have jobs to them, yeah so they can come here, bit like Australia, or America where you get the card or whatev- so you have to apply for what you get when you come here .hh don't have an issue with the people coming over here, er with the hospitals and everything, we have a minimum wage as well so::=

Shirley it's not one sided. I had an extremely ill close relative (0.5) he was an NHS patient, was a Brit, he'd served- worked in the British army, he came extremely ill only last year with a serious heart condition, he was looked after absolutely brilliantly (.) in France, and later in Italy, and he never paid a penny, because there the common NHS card which is shared by the whole of the European Union, which means that everyone of us who travels to Europe will get what we'd ne↑ver get in the United States or China. We get (.) full health [safety=

David =all right

Shirley so we really must sort out some of these lies]

David it's all right Nigel let me come back to th- the question, Grant Chapps. Then I'll come to you two. yes

[(audience applauds)]

Grant does the UK need to pull out of Europe to control immigration was the question, and the answer is, we want you to have a say in this. I believe that immigration has benefited this country. I believe that it's important to be able to travel around a free market that includes people being able to (.) move around. I'm surprised what Nigel had to say, who'd be his secretary without his German wife, for example if there was no free movement. The question really is, what kind of free movement, and how far should it go. When new countries joined the EU like what we just saw with Romania and (.) Bulgaria, we've been arguing when countries come in and have a very different level- standard of living, there should be a potential for a longer transition period, that's exactly the sort of thing that we want to renegotiate with the EU, and we want to put that to a referendum (.) so not us, not politicians, not Labour and the Lib Dems who I would argue who don't want to do anything but take us further into Europe, or Nigel who can't deliver or the Conservatives who are the people that can deliver on Europe and we can do that by giving you an in-out referendum.

David is that giving people a say Nigel (.) in [your terms?]

Nigel [why don't y]ou tell them the t[rʌθ? Why don't  
you tell them the truth that your part-]

David [you you we] what he said was [we want you to have  
your say

Y- ye But the question was (.) do we have to be a part of the EU to control immigration  
an- Grant says 'I haven't got an opinion, it's up to you in a referendum. B- but we've heard  
all that before, David Cameron was promising one at the last European elections th- d-  
didn't deliver. Come on, let's be honest (.) you along with Labour the Lib Dems the  
Greens, h the political establishment in Britain (.) have all voted=

Chuka =you a:re the political establishment you've [been an MP for fifteen years]

2133 Nigel [at every given opportunity] well I tell you  
2134 what they haven't tamed me y[et]  
2135  
2136 [((audience applause))  
2137 ]  
2138  
2139 Chuka [you are the establishment/ for god's sake. YOU ARE THE  
2140 ESTABLISHMENT ]  
2141  
2142 [((Audience applause continues))] ]  
2143  
2144  
2145 Nigel [an- an Grant and Grant (.) no party. No party] has been keener on the free movement of  
2146 peoples in the European Union (.) than the Conservatives (.) so much so, that your leader  
2147 even wants Turkey to join the European Union, with fr[ee movement] to be ext[ended t]  
2148 A nothe[r eighty mil]lion people]  
2149  
2150 David [all right. Ni-] [all right]  
2151  
2152 [Nigel. Nigel] Caroline Lucas (.) and then a nu[mber of people who have their hands  
2153 up. And I'll come to you. Caroline Lucas.  
2154  
2155 Caroline well I'm going to say something that's quite unusual because I agree with Nigel on one  
2156 point (.) one point only which i:s that I do think that people should have a say about the  
2157 EU, and I don't think (.) kicking it in this long [grass as the Conservatives are doing is the  
2158 right thing to do. I think (1) I think people]=  
2159  
2160 [((audience applause))  
2161 ]  
2162  
2163 David what would your say be?=  
2164  
2165 Grant =did you vote for it?  
2166  
2167 Caroline yes I .hhh h[uh did]  
2168  
2169 Grant [more th]an these g[uys did]  
2170  
2171 Caroline [consist]ency the↓re (.) so I=  
2172  
2173 David =and so an in-out referendum.  
2174  
2175 Caroline I do think we should have an in-out referendum a:nd if we were to have such a referendum,  
2176 The Green party would be voting to sta[y i::n. Be]cause (.) when I was thinking this subject  
2177 might possibly come up (.) tonight .hh I was making a little note on the train of the things  
2178 that the EU have done for us. When people say what has the E:U ever done for us, I've got  
2179 a (.) few things here. Uh it's not very much really (.) providing fifty seven percent of our  
2180 trade, clean beaches and rivers, cleaner air, lead-free petrol restrictions on landfill dumping  
2181 a recycling culture (.) .h cheaper mobile phone charges improved consumer protection food  
2182 labelling .h ban on hormones and other harmful food additives better product safety,  
2183 freedom to travel, live and work across E[u]rope]  
2184  
2185 Nigel [of course]  
2186  
2187 David [how m]uch more is there?=  
2188  
2189 Caroline =I've HA:rdly started but t[he point is] p[ulling part of] (.) p[ulli]ng out the EU would be a  
2190 disa::ster (.) a[nd it is a false choice] BUT. Let me say one thing though=  
2191  
2192 David [equality for women]

2193  
2194 Shirley [equality for women]  
2195  
2196 David [yes]  
2197  
2198 [((audience applause))]  
2199  
2200 David =oh dead oh dear  
2201  
2202 Caroline the thin- the thing that makes me most cross of all though (.) is when (.) Nigel Farage tries  
2203 to pretend he's a man of the people that he's anti establishment. .h if you look at the  
2204 policies of UKIP, they are anything but, UKIP is the party that is claiming lots of (.) er  
2205 money from (.) rich bankers who are (.) b[ank rolling]  
2206  
2207 Nigel [is that relevant to] this question Caroline? [th- this is an  
2208 immigration question Caroline, you know I- I'm just fascinated] by how this all fits in  
2209 really  
2210  
2211 Caroline [it is part of it  
2212 because part of the establishment- NO I was talking to you about] well I'll tell you how this  
2213 fits in Nigel if you'll just be quiet for a second].  
2214  
2215 Nigel [very interesting] very interesting=  
2216  
2217 Caroline you can't- you've just said your anti-establishment (.) you are AT THE CENTre [of the  
2218 establishment yes well you (.) said you were against the establishment] you said you were  
2219 counter to the as[sessment]  
2220  
2221 Nigel [I didn't  
2222 say I was anti-establishment. I said you were part of the establishment]  
2223  
2224 Chuka [you are t]he establish[ment]  
2225  
2226 Nigel [we:ll] (.) you know ((inau[dible]))  
2227  
2228 David [he said] he hadn't  
2229 been tamed was what he said (.) ['I've not been tamed']  
2230  
2231 [panellist's laugh ]  
2232  
2233 Caroline but do you know Nigel will say you know he'll say what nobody else dares to say (.) but I  
2234 tell you what I dare to say i:s and that is that we've got a chronic (.) housing shortage, we  
2235 have an NHS under strain, we have a culture of low pay, but the fault of that lies with the  
2236 government, not with migrants=  
2237  
2238 David =all right (.) [i'm going to bring in- there are many people with their hands up] I'll come to  
2239 the woman in the second row from the back (.) there, yes:  
2240  
2241 [((audience applause)) ]  
2242  
2243 .hh erm first of all I- I'd like to add to Shirley Williams' list that the care industry also er is  
2244 heavily dependent on immigrants .hh I've also been to Italy and bin ill (.) I didn't even  
2245 have to show my passport and had x-rays and excellent care..h without paying a penny .h  
2246 erm there was bound to be erm a period of adjustment when (.) the new countries joined  
2247 Europe (.) with regard immigration for example but it wi'll settle down I believe and  
2248 (.) I think that (.) you know, making immigration the reason for leaving Europe seems to  
2249 me to be a very short-sighted reason  
2250  
2251 Shirley er ab[solutely with you erm] of cour- I agree with you but I'd add one another thing which  
2252 we tend to forget .h (.) the countries that have come into the European Union in the last

2253 . few years (.) like Bulgaria, Romania earlier on Poland .hh are countries that haev become  
2254 . Democracies (0.2) and we should be very prou:d of that fact that the concept of democracy  
2255 . and the rule of law (.) has spread throughout the who::le of Europe (.) including eastern  
2256 . Europe, and (.) er central Europe (.) in a way that our grandparents would never believed  
2257 . possible=  
2258 .  
2259 . [((audience applause))]  
2260 .  
2261 . David =but did it need to involve fre[e movem]ent of people? Wh[y did it- why?]  
2262 .  
2263 . Shirley [yes it did] [absolutely ess]entially because  
2264 . the whole idea was the equality of citizens in the EU and above all Earnest Bevan said  
2265 . years ago ‘I want to live in a continent where you don’t have to show a passport to go from  
2266 . one place to another. It’s the ideal of the liberty of individuals to move wherever they want  
2267 . [to live]  
2268 .  
2269 . David [former] Labour foreign secretary. You sir there at (.) back in the brown shirt. Yes  
2270 .  
2271 . Will anybody admit that immigration from Europe has g’tten out of hand?  
2272 .  
2273 . Nigel yes I [will. (1) of course]  
2274 .  
2275 . (([audience applause]))  
2276 .  
2277 . David you know Nigel Farage will wh- who do you want to admit it? (1) Chuka? Any of them?  
2278 .  
2279 . any of them apart from Nigel. Nobody seems to be noone’s even taking it on-  
2280 .  
2281 . David Grant Chap=  
2282 .  
2283 . Grant =fir[st of all]  
2284 .  
2285 . [there’s] too many. Specially in Southampton  
2286 .  
2287 . Grant first of all there’s a whole other side to er what movement actually means. It means that  
2288 . millions of Brits have gone and settled in places like Spa<sup>†</sup>in and France, and elsewhere to  
2289 . reti:re (.) so we have to be looking at this in the round. So the idea that you ban it one way  
2290 . of course they’d just ban it the other way so there are advantages to Brits. But I do agree  
2291 . That you have co[n]trol] these things. That’s why this government for example has  
2292 . introduced measures where you cannot now go to the front of the housing queue if haven’t  
2293 . lived in the area or had an attachment (.) can’t use the health service as if it’s the  
2294 . international health service. That was wrong and we put an end to that. And that’s quite  
2295 . right as well. And it’s interesting to see that because we have taken series of different steps  
2296 . that the predicted mass movement of people from Ro- Romania and Bulgaria does not  
2297 . appear to have taken place=  
2298 .  
2299 . [how?]  
2300 .  
2301 . David =because of the measures you took?  
2302 .  
2303 . Grant yes I think [all of these things]  
2304 .  
2305 . David [not because they] just didn’t particularly want to come?  
2306 .  
2307 . Grant nope. Well I think all of these things. One of the things that we did very early on was  
2308 . extended from the minimum amount of time that Labour had put in for transitions (.) we  
2309 . added another two years on to the legal maximum for transition between the time between  
2310 . Romanian and Bulgarians came into the EU and were able to come he<sup>†</sup>re. And that  
2311 . allowed  
2312 . more time to [move round]



2313  
2314 David [so Chuka] is the coalition getting it right where Labour got it wrong?  
2315  
2316 Chuka well the things they have been doing recently are things we have been calling for like  
2317 strengthening the habitual residency test but may I just say something about this David. I  
2318 think its really important that we have a calm and rational debate about immigration. I  
2319 think sometimes the tone of the debate in our country has become quite ugly. So when  
2320 people like Nigel say things like when I'm on a train or bus I feel what was it 'awkward' if  
2321 I hear people speaking another language other than English I think that's kind of ugly. So  
2322 let's have a calm and ratio[nal debate] I do actually  
2323  
2324 Nigel [do you?] so do you not think that people coming to this country  
2325 (.) in reasonable controlled numbers, learning English, and integrating, and becoming part  
2326 of us is not important? I think it's very very imp[ortant inde:ed (2) very important. Ve:ry  
2327 important]  
2328  
2329 (([audience applause  
2330 ]))  
2331  
2332 Chuka you have completely misinterpreted what I have said there. I have not argued against  
2333 integration. what I've argued against is letting this debate descend into something that is  
2334 quite na:sty and quite ugly. There are a lot of buses and trains if you got on, in my  
2335 constituency in London in Stretton, where you would hear other people talking different  
2336 languages other than English. And you say that makes you feel awkward. What you say,  
2337 makes me feel awkward Nigel.  
2338  
2339 Nigel [well (.) I'm sorry Chuka]. We need (.) surely surely the essence of this question (.) the  
2340 essence of this question, is about should we pull out of the EU, so that we can control  
2341 immigration, my argument is, that unless we can control the numbers that come in to  
2342 Britain, we will not get integration, we will get increasing separation within our  
2343 communities. And that (.) is someth[ing I believe nobody wants]  
2344  
2345 (([audience applause ]))  
2346 (([audience applause ]))  
2347  
2348 David uh ok hold on a second. You sir  
2349  
2350 I just (.) wanna say we're talking about the EU, and we're saying about coming in or out of  
2351 it for immigration, there's hundreds more reasons to be doing it, so for and against. But  
2352 I'm sort of, q uite proud to say that I'm only quite a young chap and getting into politics  
2353 and quite enjoying it, as well. And I feel that the only way I can g:o (.) is that these  
2354 decisions to go into the EU were made before I had (.) a choice and a stance to sa:y, and I  
2355 think the referendum gives people that are getting interested in politics that are abit  
2356 younger a chance to really do that. And I don't think it's really a bad thing to really do that  
2357 go back and relook at the balance, and say all our heads are bette- you know fifty heads are  
2358 better than one. Which is (.) a better way forward than one party choosing. Labour have  
2359 good points (.) UKIP might have good points. But Conservative party are the only people  
2360 putting forward (.) for everyone a cha:nce, t- a chance=  
2361  
2362 Grant and well done for Caroline for voting for the bill, when it was in front of us. That would  
2363 have given us the say. And shame on Labour and the Lib Dems for not allowing this  
2364 parliament to give people the in-out referendum in Euro↑pe.  
2365  
2366 Shirley well I don't heh heh huh expect Grant to r:emember my whole history why the hell should  
2367 he? I was actually a member of the cabinet (.) the Labour cabinet that resigned on the  
2368 grounds that we weren't going to have a referendum, so I'm not really the right one to pick  
2369 on.  
2370  
2371 (0.5) ((audience laughter))  
2372

2373 Shirley let me be very precise though=  
2374  
2375 =((audience [applause]))  
2376  
2377 Shirley [let me be::] er=  
2378  
2379 David =you MAY only be the [only one] that er got the [opportunity]  
2380  
2381 Shirley [I e- er a] [all right David] let me however I want  
2382 to address (.) the gentleman concerned. We're getting distracted, I think, in the whole EU  
2383 discussion. By issues that I can only describe, like for example, issues like tossing to and  
2384 Fro party political views on m- immigration things of that kind. I read yesterday in the  
2385 newspaper, the American newspapers, the devastating effects of climate change. The only  
2386 people that can seriously do anything about climate change are not individual countries  
2387 that the UK, Germany or France, it's the whole lot [together] and some cha:nce, some  
2388 Chance of doing something about that as they had to have some chance of doing something  
2389 About organised crime. h and I'm not in the business of making sort of party political  
2390 Points except one which I must make. Er two in fact. Th- er Nigel I absolutely respect I  
2391 think he is a highly intelligent man, he's also great fun to have a drink with.  
2392  
2393 Chuka [exactly]  
2394  
2395 Nigel c::: well thank you [ho ho ha huh ha ha]  
2396  
2397 (([audience laughter]))  
2398  
2399 Shirley but let me put=  
2400  
2401 David =after the programme  
2402  
2403 Shirley let me put one serious question to him. His people in the European Parliament voted  
2404 Against a directive from the EU to limit and stop human trafficking, human trafficking (.)  
2405 of Children and people who are dragged into this country as semi-slaves. Now I think  
2406 Nigel has got to get a grip of his party cos he's got some very funny characters=  
2407  
2408 Nigel well hang on Shirley=  
2409  
2410 Shirley well no I'm sorry I'm not being rude because I gave you a precise example of where yo-  
2411 which [really bothers me]  
2412  
2413 Nigel [inaudible ] you have pushed (.) as a liberal democrat party, very strongly, in  
2414 Brussels and Strasberg, the idea of (.) justice and home affairs, becoming (.) issues moved  
2415 from the jurisdiction of the British parliament, to the European institutions. And you can  
2416 talk about people trafficking and the rest of it, your party th- sponsored the European  
2417 Arrest Warrant=  
2418  
2419 Shirley =it did=  
2420  
2421 Nigel with a guy from North London, without any prima facie evidence being presented to a  
2422 British court, being taken, Dumped (.) for a year, in a hellhole in Greece, without facing  
2423 charge. Since Magna Carta, in this country, we've had Habeas Corpus, the presumption of  
2424 innocence before guilt, and I'm afraid that [they are the] things that you- and you call  
2425 yourself a liberal party and you've thrown them awa↑y.  
2426  
2427 Shirley [inaudible ] and then there is the great train  
2428 [robbery, who was rescued for years in Spain]  
2429  
2430 (([audience applause ]))  
2431  
2432 David all right let's leave that alone. Caroline Lucas, then I'm going to bring in two or three er

2433 . members of the °audience°  
2434 .  
2435 . Caroline well I only want to er go back to the young man on the er front row there who was saying  
2436 . that he was enjoying getting involved in politics and wanted th- er opportu↑nity to (.) vote  
2437 . on (.) membership of the European Union. And I was simply going to say that erm that the  
2438 . kind of issues now (.) are the ones that need to be properly trashed out with people that  
2439 . haven't had the opportunity to have their say on it at the moment. And I think that the  
2440 . points that Shirley raises about the role that the EU can play, for example in combating  
2441 . climate change or championing human rights its absolutely vital=  
2442 .  
2443 . David =all right=  
2444 .  
2445 . Caroline and we need to have that debate this will enable us to er engage with the EU because right  
2446 . now I feel that a lot of peopl- you went out on the streets of Southampton and said 'what's  
2447 . the EU for' (.) people don't know anymore it's lost its way it's lost its vision we need to  
2448 . reinspi:re what the EU could be for. It needs a lot of reform, it needs to be far more  
2449 . democratic and accountable it needs to be far mo[re transparent] there are lots of very eas:y  
2450 . [ways]  
2451 .  
2452 . Nigel [ho:w? How]  
2453 . [ho:w] can you=  
2454 .  
2455 . Caroline [=you won't if you leave]  
2456 .  
2457 . [((Audience applause))]  
2458 .  
2459 . David let's [hear]  
2460 .  
2461 . Caroline [you] won't if you leave, that's fo[r sure]  
2462 .  
2463 . David [((inaudible))]=  
2464 .  
2465 . Nigel =how can you reform something, that's based on tr[eaties]  
2466 .  
2467 . David [er er N]igel, the audience has come  
2468 . here, not just to listen to you, [but to also listen]  
2469 .  
2470 . Nigel [No well I'll sit d]own and be [quiet, s- °all right°]  
2471 .  
2472 . David [and debate with y]ou and the  
2473 . other members of the panel so let's um (.) have a go °you there°  
2474 .  
2475 . Audience-member from a practical perspective, if net immigration is the size of the city of Southampton (.)  
2476 . where are they all going to live? Rents are spiralling out of control, where are my children  
2477 . gunna find a house to live?  
2478 .  
2479 . ((inaudible reactions))  
2480 .  
2481 . David Ch- Chuka A- Umunna do you want to answer tha-?  
2482 .  
2483 . Chuka at the end of the day, the reason that we have housing problems right now is because we  
2484 . have the lowest rate of new builds since the 1920s. And again to go back to the point made  
2485 . ea↑rlier, we can blame all of our problems on the EU (.) if we want, but really we've got to  
2486 . sort them out here, that's the responsibility of government. Can I just, actually say  
2487 . something else David. Because we're talking about whether we're in or we're out. Of  
2488 . course if we come out of the EU, we are still likely gunna have to comply with all their  
2489 . ru:les, and regulations to sell our goods in there. At least if you're on the field playing the  
2490 . match batting for Britain, you can actually [get a good deal] but w- [w- what you would]  
2491 . do you would actually [walk off the field]  
2492 .

2493 Nigel [((inaudible)) ] [and los- and losing]  
2494 [well Chuka the a]rgument. But [the argument ]  
2495  
2496 David [all right ]  
2497  
2498 Nigel [the argument ] David the  
2499 argument that we can bat for Britain .hh has been given lie to under freedom of  
2500 information requests in fifty five occasions since 1996 partly under a Labour government,  
2501 Partly under a coalition, .h on fifty five occasions at the council of ministers (.) the British  
2502 government have said (.) ‘we are gunna fight hard’, against this directive, .h and we have  
2503 lost (.) on all (.) fifty [five (.) occasions look lets] stop bangi[ng o]ur h[eads a]gainst a brick  
2504 [wall tha]t sur[ely, w]e’re not winning, we’re not] succeeding, and [we ought to be]  
2505 governing our own country, and making our own laws. (1) su[rely that makes m]ore sense  
2506  
2507 [((audience applause))]  
2508  
2509 Grant [look look I- I what we see] [surely] [surely]  
2510 [surely] [surely]  
2511  
2512 David [Gr- Grant Chaps]  
2513  
2514 [((audience applause))]  
2515  
2516 Chuka [absolutely ]  
2517  
2518 Grant [surely we’re ] SUREly what we’re=  
2519  
2520 [(audience applause)) ]  
2521  
2522 David =were you saying absolutely (in correspondence?)  
2523  
2524 Grant [surely I tell you]  
2525  
2526 David sorry were you saying absolutely or absolutely not  
2527  
2528 Chuka I’m no- (.) saying absolute nonsense. And I’ll tell you what, if you [look f]or e[xample at]  
2529  
2530 Nigel (hypocritical?)  
2531  
2532 David [no no] [Grant Chaps]  
2533  
2534 Grant surely what we’re witnessing here are two extremes. (0.2) one party, the Labour party, will  
2535 not give you an in-out referendum on Europe. The other party, UKIP, who say they want  
2536 one, but admit at the same tim[e they cann]ot deliver one. That’s why the Conservative  
2537 in-out referendum is the only feasible solution to this. People of (.) o:ur generation with the  
2538 exception of Shirley never been given a say. Let’s renegotiate it. An[d put it to the British  
2539 people=  
2540  
2541 Nigel [hypocrisy]  
2542  
2543 =and vote to stay in  
2544  
2545 Grant you can vote how you like [Nigel]  
2546  
2547 Nigel [well y]our leader David Cameron wants to stay i↑n.  
2548  
2549 David can I just ask one question? Why is it always ‘renegotiate’ and then have a referendum.  
2550 Why not just (.) have a referendum?  
2551  
2552 Nigel fob off the electorate, that’s what it’s all about=

2553  
2554 Grant =no because if you had a referendum without actually having agreed on what th- the er  
2555 subject was, in other words=  
2556  
2557 David the subject being ‘should you be in or out of Europe?’  
2558  
2559 Grant there’s a better option isn’t there. The better option is, rather than just say these two  
2560 extreme positions that’s just fine, as Chuka will tell you, or disa:stous, as Nigel will tell  
2561 you, actually you can do things like [renegotiate] [the position when ne]w countries join  
2562 the EU  
2563  
2564 Chuka [((like your))]  
2565  
2566 Nigel [it’s a con, oh really]  
2567  
2568 David how can you avoid the trick (.) that Harold Wilso[n paid] when he renegotiated just a [little  
2569 bit and then and t]hen say (.) ‘go for it’?  
2570  
2571 Nigel [exactly]  
2572  
2573 Grant [for  
2574 this simple reason] fo- for this simple reason. Number one=  
2575  
2576 David =I remember because I voted [oh yes you] voted in that too  
2577  
2578 Shirley [(inaudible)]  
2579  
2580 Grant for this simple reason. For the two of you will re:mind us we won’t fall for it again.  
2581 Secondly, because it will be up to everyone else to make the decision, has eno:ugh of  
2582 renegotiation taken place, have we retu:rned powers to this country, have we come to a  
2583 position which people are comfortable with, and then give people an in-out referendum.  
2584 And only [the Conservati]ves, will deliver that.  
2585  
2586 Chuka [this is fantasy]  
2587  
2588 Grant it’s not fantasy=  
2589  
2590 Chuka =it is fantasy  
2591  
2592 David all right then all- we’ll hear about fantasy in a minute. Yes no, let’s just listen to our  
2593 audience.  
2594  
2595 Audience-member Grant, I think yourself and Caroline and Chuka and our colleagues in the political elite –  
2596 what you mi:ss, about UKIP, is that the motivation for what you do politically is as  
2597 important as what you do. So the fact that you’ve offered a referendum, is great but you’ll  
2598 never claim the credit for it, because you were forced into a position where you had to.  
2599 Cameron rene:ged on his cast ir[on promise] LET ME finish, Grant let me finish and then  
2600 you can come back. And then now, you say ‘we’ll put it to you’. And people saying we  
2601 don’t want you know as an electorate, it’s a funny kind of relationship with you but we  
2602 want to be led (.) just as much as we want you to listen. And UKIP have put their finger on  
2603 an issue that concerns a lot of people and they’ve [LED]. What you’ve all done, in the  
2604 mainstream media, and the metropolitan elite, is you’ve res:ponded to things happening,  
2605 because you don’t understa:nd what life is like out- for people out there in Britain. You  
2606 [don’t understand it.]  
2607  
2608 Grant [no no NO]  
2609 [okay]  
2610  
2611 (([audience applause]))  
2612

2613 Caroline [I think ]  
 2614  
 2615 David Caroline Lucas wants to respond to you then of course, Grant Chaps  
 2616  
 2617 Caroline I think that the gentleman has absolutely put his finger on something incredibly important.  
 2618 Because (.) people look at- going to vote UKIP are very rude and say they're racists or  
 2619 they're bigots or whatever I don't think that's the case I think they're very angry, I think  
 2620 very many of you are very angry. And that's because it feels to you, I'm sure, as it does to  
 2621 many, that the political elite just simply doesn't understand your lives, when you look in  
 2622 [on them, it feels as if (1) it feels absolutely out] of touch. And the danger of that though (.)  
 2623 which are in so many areas dubious (.) it's almost as if it doesn't matter about the policies  
 2624 because your anger is so great and I understand that but I also think it's incredibly  
 2625 dangerous because when you look at UKIPs policies=  
 2626  
 2627 [[[audience applause ]]]  
 2628  
 2629 Nigel =well we want our [country back]  
 2630  
 2631 Caroline [it's about priv]atising. Well it's about [privatising the NHS]  
 2632  
 2633 Nigel [we want our cou]ntry back.  
 2634 We WANT our DEMocracy What is wrong with that?  
 2635  
 2636 Caroline we- I'm talking about your other policies. [N- privatising the NHS]  
 2637  
 2638 Nigel [all we want, all we want]  
 2639  
 2640 Caroline [it's about] let me just finish Nigel  
 2641  
 2642 Nigel [no no no] we've never said that Caroline=  
 2643  
 2644 Caroline =well what about your manifesto ((lifts paper)) I've brought your manifestos=  
 2645  
 2646 David =now wait, w- we're not going into UKIPs [manifesto hold on we're dealing wi]th the  
 2647 question that er he asked. yes do you want to come back=  
 2648  
 2649 Nigel [we wanna govern our own country]  
 2650  
 2651 ((clip ends))

---

***Question Time (6<sup>th</sup> March 2014): Barking***

2652 David time is against us and then move on to another question this is a question we had I  
 2653 think more questions about apart from Ukraine (.) er than anything else this evening  
 2654 it- this one is one is from Pam Dumbleton please Pam Dumbleton  
 2655  
 2656 Pam Isn't it time the government listened to the people about effect that immigration is  
 2657 having in changing our communities?  
 2658  
 2659 (2.5)  
 2660  
 2661 ((some audience applause))  
 2662  
 2663 David jus- just in what way do you think the government isn't listening

2664  
2665 (1)

2666  
2667 Pam the government haven't got a clue. David Cameron has never been to Barking, if  
2668 he came he'd be- they'd be warned in advance and everything would be brushed up  
2669 (.) the government need to come and walk through our town and just see how we  
2670 now live. Go back twelve years it was totally different. Now we have the complete  
2671 minority there, and it's like or the most terrible place on earth to live at the  
2672 moment

2673  
2674 ((audience grumbles; some isolated clapping; 'awkward' shuffling))

2675  
2676 David Amanda Prittel

2677  
2678 Amanda I did a little research about Barking before I came here (.) erm and evidently  
2679 you've had a 30 percent drop in the indigenous population and a two hundred  
2680 percent increase in immig[ration] and (.) look (.) I think I'm the only one on the panel  
2681 who is an immigrant. I came from Australia twenty eight years ago with a backpack, I  
2682 love this country I'm really glad to be able to live here but I never came here  
2683 expecting that I would be able to get a house, use (.) you know send child benefit  
2684 back home, use the welfare system I always thought it a privilege to be here. And I do  
2685 not se- understand when we have the kind of social tensions we have here with  
2686 schools with which are it is overflowing now you've got more children of school age  
2687 in this area are proportion population than anywhere else in the country cos you  
2688 have lots of people coming in many of whom to work really hard and want to  
2689 contribute BUt the government is not taking account at the pressure it puts and I just  
2690 think that=

2691  
2692 David =and what does it- how should it do it

2693

2694 Amanda well I think it's a huge problem. What David Cameron has suggested=

2695  
2696 Lee =what about the indigenous people here. The people who have been here all their  
2697 lives all their families have been here (0.3) I'm-

2698  
2699  
2700 Amanda David Cameron did suggest that we had a ban so if someone was coming in they had  
to work for three months and pay tax before they were able to] look I]

2701  
2702  
2703 Lee [look the papers today said one in  
seven

2704  
2705 Amanda I would say ten years (.) make it a bigger barrier make people contribute before=

2706  
2707 David =all right make your point sir make it once again

2708  
2709 Lee one in seven new businesses are set up for immigrants, yeah (.)

2710

2711 Pam ((quiet)) to employ immigrants, yeah

2712

2713 Lee they're all being given money ever- everythin's being thrown at the immigrants

2714

2715 Audience oh rubbish ((grumbles, dispersed talking, shouting: 3 seconds))

2716

2717 David no da-

2718

2719 Lee can I finish then? Listen I've applied for a hundred jobs on the railway. One

2720 HUNdred jobs. I don't even get an interview anymore in the old days at least you'd

2721 get a rejection letter I don't even get that one hundred jobs. But these immigrants

2722 (.) they get all their tickets paid for all their jobs (.) look I am ho[meless] I have

2723 nowhere to live. I have to go down today and listen to an immigrant t[ellin me] WELL

2724 that's the TRuth (.) that's the] truth I went down t[o John Smith House today and am

2725 immigrant tells me that I cannot live here I cannot get anywhere to live.

2726

2727 Audience [inaudible]

2728 [inaudible]

2729 ]

2730

2731 David David Renoavitch=

2732

2733 Lee =((inau[dible]))] we are the minority and we get nothin

2734

2735 David [okay]

2736

2737 David R so you're blaming=

2738

2739 Lee I'm not blaming immigrants at all

2740

2741 David R you're blaming the wrong people

2742

2743 Lee I'm not=

2744

2745 David R you're blaming er you a-

2746

2747 Lee I'm just st[ating] the ]facts, CASE

2748

2749 David R [can I just] no no you're stating your perception (.) of the [facts of the case]

2750

2751 Lee [for me person]ally

2752 and for many people like me



2753  
2754 David yes okay you've made your point I[et him answer]

2755  
2756  
2757 David R [I know I know] just cos you perceive something  
doesn't make it true we al=

2758  
2759 Lee it's true for me

2760  
2761 ((audience applause: 4 seconds))

2762  
2763 David R there isn't anything that you=

2764  
2765  
2766 Lee =cos we're being targete[d as BNP we're not] all racist I w[ork with] immigrants I['ll  
work with anyone but w]hat about the indigenous people here as well

2767  
2768  
2769 David [no please hang on sir] [be fair] [be  
fair be fair be fair let him] I think we've heard your point the idea is that the panel  
2770 should be able to answer

2771  
2772 Lee okay thank you

2773

2774 David R No one so far accused anybody of being racist but the but the things that you've said  
2775 were exactly what was said about my grandparents when they came over to the  
2776 Jewish East End in the early 1900s exactly the same things they sai↑d precisely the same  
2777 things 'we can't walk through our streets because they're not ours anym()ore' why is a  
2778 street not yours because some of the faces in it are black? Why can't you b[e in the streets

2779  
2780 [audience  
2781 applause: 3 seconds]

2782  
2783 David all right then answer this=

2784  
2785 Lee =((inaudible)) on the streets

2786  
2787 David R no no no hold on. Actuall- [actually most- most immigrants]

2788  
2789 David [he didn- he didn't actually sa]y

2790  
2791 Amanda actually he didn't say anything about black people

2792  
2793 David he didn't mention black people

2794  
2795 Lee ridiculous

2796  
2797 ((audience chat/shout while Lee stands up and puts coat on and continues))

2798  
2799 Amanda do you really think that? ((looks at Lee))

2800  
2801 David ((inaudible)) has it?

2802  
2803 Lee well I need to go find somewhere to live

2804  
2805 David alright

2806  
2807 Lee yeah ((audience applause)) I will (.) tonight ((looking at audience member behind))

2808  
2809 David okay. You sit at the very back there (.) thank you very much

2810  
2811 ((Lee walks out of the room))

2812  
2813 can I say I- I work around the corner in a school that is a fantastically er: assimilated and  
2814 cohesive community. I do not recognize the Barking that we're hearing from the front  
2815 row. I'm a bit worried]

2816  
2817 [[(au)dience applause))

2818  
2819 I'm a bit well (.) not disgusted but a bit concerned that the BBC tonight selected that  
2820 question from the lady at the front there just to build up this sort of er (.) debate er

2821  
2822 David hang on (.) you may not have heard me say there were more questions on immigration in  
2823 Barking th- well wait a minute (.) be fair, more questions on immigration in Barking than  
2824 any other subject apart of Ukraine=

2825  
2826 =I appreciate that=

2827  
2828 David so so don't start attacking the programme (.) for having selected this question it was the  
2829 audience's question]

2830  
2831 [what] I'd really love the panel to comment on though, is the:  
2832 supposed suppression today by the er Tories of a report that drew er (.) that said there was  
2833 no link between im[migr]ation and unemployment [and I'd like you to comment]

2834  
2835 David [right] Michael Heseltine to answer

2836  
2837 Michael er: the conservative-led government has just published the report (.) so I don't know what  
2838 you're using the word suppression about, but what the- what the what [the report says is  
2839 that there isn't anything like the link between immigration and employment (.) as people  
2840 perceived. That's what the report says. although there was an earlier report which indicated

2841 there was. And er- er why I disagree with you because I think it's the job of the BBC to  
 2842 allow questions of this sort to be asked because undoubtedly this whole issue about  
 2843 immigration is really and the r:ate at which we can attract foreign people from overseas is  
 2844 absolu↑tely fundamental to the political debate in this country. And if you actually look at  
 2845 the UK isolationist party, they call themselves UKIP, the appeal of UKIP is actually about  
 2846 immigration. And the resentments that we heard here, that's the UK question and h I think  
 2847 that the m- most impressive thing that's happened here tonight, in Barking is the  
 2848 overwhelming reaction of the audience in resentment in this parody [of what Barking is all  
 2849 about.]

2850  
 2851 [The BBC website] today [said it had been  
 2852 suppressed]

2853  
 2854 [((audience applause  
 2855 ]

2856  
 2857 David you sir, up there (0.5) yes you in the black shirt

2858  
 2859 I think you're deluding yourself if you think there aren't these tensions (.) especially in this  
 2860 area. Bu: I think maybe you're blaming the wrong people. If you're blaming each other  
 2861 sitting here in this audience (.) if you're gunna let people come without any infrastructure  
 2862 any planning (.) to settle them in then there's gunna be tensions. [And it's not] just gunna  
 2863 be whit versus black, or black versus Chinese, it's gunna [be everybody]

2864  
 2865 [that's the pr]oblem

2866  
 2867 [((audience applause))]

2868  
 2869 David Rachel Reeves? Yo- you're applauding him. Do you agree?

2870  
 2871 Rachel I do agree with him. David said that 'just because the gentleman at the front perceived  
 2872 something doesn't make it real' and he shouted back and said 'but it's real for me:' (.) and  
 2873 he walked out of this room and people clapped and you sho↑ldn't have clapped because  
 2874 for him, he is homeless and he might be wrong in blaming some people in this room  
 2875 for that but that's how he feels and that's what he's facing today. And what can't just  
 2876 say 'you're wrong' and let him walk out, because he has to listen what other people have to  
 2877 Say, and you have to hear what he has to say (.) as well. But I do agree with this gentleman  
 2878 (1) here, cos if we are gunna let people into this country, we've got to make sure there is  
 2879 a level playing field have gotta make sure that are enough school places, we've  
 2880 gotta make sure there are enough homes, for people (.) to live in a:nd we've got to  
 2881 make sure as well th't there are jobs for people. We need to make sure as well that the  
 2882 labour market isn't rigged against people, so you know the situation where jobs are  
 2883 advertised overseas but not (.) in this coun[try for example]

2884  
 2885 David [and you believe] this is happening?

2886  
 2887 Rachel it is happening, it does hap[pen]

2888  
 2889 David [so] you believe that immigration is being wrongly handled?

2890  
2891 Rachel I (.) do think that there v(h)ery real problems we need to deal with (.) for example jobs  
2892 should be advertised in this country, the minimum wage should be properly enforced,  
2893 health and safety should be enforced, private landlords who let out their houses to you  
2894 know ten people in er two three bedroom hom[es (.) tha()t should not be allowed And  
2895 we've got to understand (.) we've got to understand] the legitimate concerns of people who  
2896 have lived here their families who have lived here all their lives, we also have to  
2897 understand that people come to this country because they want to work hard like David's  
2898 family did, like you're families of other people in this room did, and we've gotta make it  
2899 work for everybody, for all of us because we live in this community together, we can't roll  
2900 back the clock, to make it work we can only do that by working together.

2901  
2902 [(audience applause)  
2903 ]

2904  
2905 Michael this is the most arrant hypocrisy I have ever listened to. This is the supporter of the  
2906 Labour government that had over two hundred thousand people coming here into this  
2907 country (.) as immigrants [[an- an you] and you actually did absolutely nothing about i↑]t

2908  
2909 [(audience applause ]

2910  
2911 Rachel [and there are two hundred thousand coming tod↑ay Michael]

2912  
2913 Michael and you're now pretend[ing that you've got all these p]olicies. [What would you do?  
2914 [What would you ACTUALLY [do? In government]

2915  
2916 Rachel [There are two hundred thousand] [Michael]  
2917 [Michael] [first of all Michael]

2918  
2919 Michael no WHAT would you do?

2920  
2921 Rachel do you want to listen to me?

2922  
2923 Michael no (.) I do I want you to answer the question what would you DO?

2924  
2925 Rachel first of all Michael there are two hundred thousand people coming to this country today;,  
2926 er the numbers are showing=

2927  
2928 Michael =under the rules you created

2929  
2930 Rachel e: no under the rules- you've been in government for four years you're government  
2931 have been in power for four years of [two hundred thous]and people coming here

2932  
2933 Michael [what would you do]

2934  
2935 Rachel well first of all I've been in gov- er been in a parliament since 2010=

2936  
2937 Michael =so it's your party's fault?

2938  
2939 Rachel what i'm saying is we need rules to enforce these things. We need to ensure the  
2940 infrastructure is there, and we need to make sure jobs are not just advertised overseas. And  
2941 you know no one has been named and shamed for not paying the national minimum wage,  
2942 we need to ensure those rules (.) that gang ma:sters can't exploit those rules, there are  
2943 practical things we could do, but blaming each other, people blaming e[ach other] for the  
2944 problems of this country, that's not the way

2945  
2946 David [okay] all right  
2947 you sir in the front there, then I'll come to you sir yes

2948  
2949 One of the problems is, in the pa:st when immigrants came ere, it was in small numbers, as  
2950 they gradually assimilated into the new community. And the new community accepted  
2951 Them. Here in Barking it's been like an absolute inv()a↑sion, you know you're talking  
2952 about what's happening in erm, sort of erm, the () Crimea earlier, you know the threat of  
2953 invasion there, here in Barking we seem to be living through it. I love the new foreign  
2954 people I get on with them, but I just don't kn↑ow this Bo()rough. I feel a stranger in my  
2955 own country

2956  
2957 Well then maybe you are a stranger to this country

2958  
2959 David Alexander [(1) Alexander] Nekrassov

2960  
2961 [((inaudible shouting))]

2962  
2963 Alexander well you know from a point of view of someone Russian living here I tell you why you  
2964 have that debate (.) and why you're so (.) heated about it is becus it's been suppressed for  
2965 so long and the only reason you have it now is because the elections are coming, UKIP is  
2966 sort of- er (.) making a fuss about it. And suddenly all the parties started to talk but (.) there  
2967 was no reasonal debat- reasonable debate until about four years [ago]

2968  
2969 Michael [we] had Enoch Powell  
2970 in the 1960s saying all the same sort of things (0.5) it's not a new debate

2971  
2972 David R no it's not. We had this debate back in 2010 with Gordon Brown and Gillian Dun- we've  
2973 had nothing but the immigration debate for the last- well it seems to me the last ten years  
2974 and let me just say=

2975  
2976 David =wait are you saying it should be closed down?

2977  
2978 David R no no (.) I I'm very much in favour of the debate, but I'm also in favour of saying that I'm  
2979 actually plea↑sed (.) that Labour let all those immigrants come to Britain (.) [peple that are  
2980 an immense- they save a terrificly good thing about this place as a]country. And they  
2981 contribute an enormous amount to this country (.) and if there are problems of (1) yeah,  
2982 And if there are problems of- if there are problems of transition and services and so on yes  
2983 we should solve those problems. But those kids we're talking about in those overflowing  
2984 schools will be paying your kid's [pensions]

2985  
2986 .  
2987 . audience applause))  
2988 .  
2989 .  
2990 . David [all right. Simon Hug]hes er (.) Simon Hughes I'll come back- you asked the question I'll  
2991 . come back to you after w[e've heard from Simon Hughes [then come back to you as we're  
2992 . pretty much now we're nearly at the end]  
2993 .  
2994 .  
2995 .  
2996 . Simon [ba- listen. I- I represent the Old  
2997 . Kent Road at Elephant and Castle] and very proud to do so. What you raise is a real issue.  
2998 . Yeah? I accept I ACCEPT (.) I accept that for people born here (.) particularly for people  
2999 . whose families come from London for genera↑tions (0.5) they have seen very large  
3000 . increase in people quotes 'not like them' I accept that completely. Yeah? I do think  
3001 . like Michael, that the la:st government had two significantu failures, for which they need to  
3002 . be held to account. One, they made an error in allowing transition period which we could  
3003 . of Had when Poland and co[untries] joined the EU, not to be applied. We were the only  
3004 . country that allowed that so of course they came here. A[nd we were very lo]-  
3005 .  
3006 . Michael [yeah]  
3007 .  
3008 . David R [do you regret all th]at Simon?  
3009 . Simon [yes that was a] mistake  
3010 .  
3011 . David [hang on David] let Simon [make his point]  
3012 .  
3013 . David R [do you regret] all those Poles?  
3014 .  
3015 . Simon no of course i don't but it was a mistake becos the volume of people who came over in that  
3016 . period in my judgement I said it at the time I thought would er cause a tension  
3017 . which it did. Yeah? The other thing is that under Labour, the policing of our borders wa:s  
3018 . Hopeless. HOPeless (.) The UK BA we had no system of checking anybody o:ut (0.5) and  
3019 . we had a pretty lousy system for controlling our borders now=  
3020 .  
3021 . David =and what do you say to the lady here who asked the original question  
3022 .  
3023 . Simon no I=  
3024 .  
3025 . David =before we come to the end of the programme  
3026 .  
3027 . Simon no I was responding to her question.  
3028 .  
3029 . David ye:s  
3030 .

3031 Simon but isn't=

3032

3033 Pam but haven't the EU made all of this worse=

3034

3035 Simon =no listen=

3036

3037 Pam =they made us keep our b[orders o]pen, yes they have. [We need to have no we ne]ed to

3038 police our own borders [we need t]o make our ow[n decisions]. We [don't] need [the E]U

3039 to run our country.

3040

3041 Simon [no no] [let me ask you a question]

3042 [er listen] [that's what] [right] [okay]

3043 you can take that view. I disagree with you. I tell you why=

3044

3045 Pam =I kn[ow you d]o.

3046

3047 Simon [I tell you] why no I tell you w↑hy. We:: in the UK have retained our rights to have

3048 passport control (.) unlike other EU countries. And I support that. Yeah? But this

3049 government, both parties in the government (.) are very clear that they are addressing this

3050 issue (.) we can't change the rules on the European Union because it's a free trade free

3051 movement id↑ea. And there are two and a half million pe[ople], who are British, living in

3052 other p[arts of the European Union, because they chose to go there. Right? It's not a one

3053 way street. And together we are better than being on our own.]

3054

3055 David [right]

3056 [((audience applause))

3057 ]

3058

3059 David [all right. SIMON I'm going to have to- I'm going to have to stop you.] I'm afraid we've

3060 come to the end of our hour. Sorry to those of you [(.) well c- what can I do really, we'll

3061 have another hour]

3062

3063 [((audience applause continues)) ]

3064

3065 [((audience chatter and laughter))]

---

***Question Time (9<sup>th</sup> January 2014): Lewisham***

3066 now that the er (.) tidal wave of er Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants h's er failed

3067 to materialise (0.3) er:: will the racist er rhetoric now (.) s- subside and will

3068 Romanians and Bulgarians be once more feel welcome in this countr↑y?

3069

3070 David the wave [of Romanians and Bulgarians]

3071

3072 Audience [applause ]

3073

3074 David your- your Romanian yourself? Aren't you sir? You are (.) yes, right. Er well will the

3075 racist er rhetoric now subside (.) Paul Nuttall?  
3076  
3077 ((Audience laughter))  
3078  
3079 Paul How did I know you were coming to me first? ERM .t well look. We've said all along  
3080 (.) we don't know how many Romanians and Bulgarians (.) will co↑me. We just  
3081 don'[t know]  
3082  
3083 Susie [there's] two!  
3084  
3085 ((Audience laughter))  
3086  
3087 Paul look (.) when was new year? Look look. Migration Watch UK for example, say that  
3088 fifty thousand will come, per year, for the next five years. That's two hundred and  
3089 fifty thousand- the Institute for Democracy are saying three hundred and eighty fiv  
3090 thousand over the next five y↑ears, which is a city (.) not dissimilar to Bristol. (.) what  
3091 WE'RE saying in UKIP (.) is quite simple: it makes no sense economically (.) to have  
3092 a whole open border to the whole of Europe (.) cos we have to because we're  
3093 members of the European Union freedom of movement of peoples is enshrined in  
3094 the treaties (.) it makes no sense whatsoever to have an open door (.) when you have  
3095 (.) two point four million people unemployed and a million young people unemployed  
3096 (.) who can't get a job. It makes no sense whatsoever to saturate the employment  
3097 market any furth↑er, and on top of that, you know freedom of movement of people (.)  
3098 might work (0.4) when you've got economies of similar er of similar size and also (.)  
3099 where the wages are similar (.) so ourselves, France, the Scandinavian countries,  
3100 where it doesn't work, is, take for example Bulgaria and Romania (0.2) where the  
3101 average wage is three hundred and fifty Euro a mo↑nth, the minimum wage is one  
3102 hundred and fifty Euro a month (.) look the traffic will only be (.) one way and quite  
3103 frankly, we don't think we can cope, and what we would like to see is a points-based  
3104 system in this country, that if you've got the skills that this country needs, yes please  
3105 come here and work, but it makes no economic sense to have an open door while we  
3106 have a million young people unemployed.  
3107  
3108 David you want to come back on that?  
3109  
3110 Nicolai ye:s there have been any number of erm of surveys done (.) er which have proved that  
3111 actually immigration is of a positive economic benefit to this [nation]  
3112  
3113 (((Aud]ience applause))  
3114  
3115 Paul well actually there's been a number of surveys a number of studies that have proved  
3116 (.) actually it doesn't (1) er: erm an I know Nigel Farage made the point the other day  
3117 and I concur (.) you know if it means that we're a little less- poorer, I would like  
3118 to see us control our borders (.) COS if we carry on the way we're going, the  
3119 population of this country will be eighty eight million by 2060 and quite frankly, I  
3120 think we've pretty full already.  
3121  
3122 David Susie Boniface  
3123  
3124 Susie you're full of something=  
3125  
3126 Paul huh huh jolly funny  
3127  
3128 Susie the question whether the racist rhetoric will end is plainly N:O, it's gunna carry on=  
3129  
3130 Paul =what's racist about that?  
3131  
3132 Susie I'm gunna tell you if you'll let me finish. I'm descended from migrants twice over (.)  
3133 Danish and Irish. Er both of whom have been treated reasonably good and bad in this  
3134 country. Both of whom were hard working, one worked in the army, the other worked as a



3135 Housemaid, you know, twenty hours a day for very little money. both of whom came  
3136 and had their families here and produced part of Britain. You [want to send me back f]eel  
3137 free cut me in the middle. I didn't say that, er if you're talking about you know we've got  
3138 migration issues in this country we've always had open doors, people can come and go,  
3139 that's what's made Britain great over the years. That's what we are. Most of us migrants in  
3140 this country at the moment forty thousand or so came from China. Now (.) what was the  
3141 prime minister's response to the terrible problem of Chinese migr↑ation? He's decided to  
3142 relax the visa rules for the Chinese, it's all right if they come. He doesn't want the  
3143 Roma↑nians here, doesn't want the Bulgarians, doesn't want people who are a bit du::sky  
3144 or a little bit dark, people that don't bring enough money in, but he's happy for people who  
3145 he can make a buck out of or go on a trade mission to with his father in law. [the way we  
3146 t:alk about migration in this country (3)] frankly I have found the way we have discussed  
3147 the migration issue utterly appalling, completely disgusting, obnoxious, offensive, and very  
3148 un-British and I would like it to just try and change and grow up [and be sensible.]  
3149

3150 Paul [no, no absolutely not]  
3151  
3152 (([audience  
3153 applause )))  
3154 (([audienceappl]ause))  
3155

3156 Paul can I just=  
3157

3158 David no no hold on a second paul I'll come back. Nadine Dorris.  
3159

3160 Nadine well of course to get the populist cheer Susie didn't mention the fact that David Cameron  
3161 has no authority whatsoever about our borders or who can come from wherever in the  
3162 European Union. We actually can't set immigration targets on who comes to us from (.)  
3163 within the European Union. We have no idea how many people are going to co]me, but we  
3164 do know how many millions of people have the right to come if they want to. Now most- a  
3165 large part of Britain this week has seen- over the last few weeks has seen since Christmas  
3166 Flooding, one of the problems with flooding is that we're building on our flood planes.  
3167 And so we have less and less area to drain water from. Well you might think 'well that's  
3168 not particularly an issue we can deal with that'. Well you might think that as long as you're  
3169 not living in an areas that have been flooded. h now the only way we can control  
3170 immigration into this country is to leave the European Union, the only way that is gunna  
3171 happen is if we have a referendum, and the only way you're gunna get that, is making sure  
3172 you get a Conservative government. Because it has committed (.) to a referendum in 2017,  
3173 to give British people a choice whether we're in or we're out. So if you don't want to have  
3174 open-ended er target of people who can come to this country you will have an opportunity  
3175 to go and vote and say no. Because David Cameron has no legal powers to stop  
3176 anybody from within the European Union, from coming here and settling if they want to,  
3177 that's what our entry of the European Unions means=  
3178

3179 David =and are you against the tidal wave of Romanians and Bulgarians that was expected  
3180 according to the questioner?  
3181

3182 Nadine er there has been no tidal wave, but (.) there might be tomorrow, there might be next year.  
3183 We don't know. That is the problem. We could have a tidal wave from Yug- anywhere.  
3184 This is the problem. And I really object to these objectives and these targets 'we're gunna  
3185 have a cap on immigration'. We can't put caps on immigration. Because we have open  
3186 borders. Legally we are una[ble to d]o that. There is only one solution. And that's to vote  
3187 Conservative, have your say in a referendum in 2017, and go to the polls and decide for  
3188 yourself whether you want to be in the European Union or out of it. And then you can  
3189 come here and you can argue the case about whether we have open borders.  
3190

3191 David [all right]  
3192

3193 David okay you sir  
3194

3195 . Erm yeah I take real issue with that. If you're Spanish for example where unemployment  
3196 . amongst under twenty-fives is at seventy percent, you might come to London for a job. If  
3197 . you can't find a job quickly, you're probably gunna go back to Spain. It costs I dunno I pay  
3198 . six hundred pounds a month just in rent bills t- to live in London. I think the million people  
3199 . unemployed in the UK which is continually rolled out, those of people in the North of  
3200 . England in areas where industry has collapsed, in areas where there's no jobs for those  
3201 . people, there's long term unemployment er you know it's an endemic [problem]  
3202 .

3203 . Nadine [with the]  
3204 . greatest respect, we've got around seven hundred and fifty thousand illegal immigrants in  
3205 . the country, and we don't even know where they a↑re, we have inward net migration of  
3206 . about two hundred thousand. You know th- this scenario you're painting of people coming  
3207 . here deciding they can't find a job and going (.) just doesn't exist. People do come and  
3208 . they do stay. And this is one of the most important points as well. The people they present  
3209 . the biggest threat to, those people that come from Spain, and Romania and other countries  
3210 . haven't got skills, who come to here to take the jobs of what (.) we would call blue collar  
3211 . who workers. So it's people er in constituencies like Harlow and others who who actually  
3212 . feel the treat of not having protection of their borders because their jobs are in competition.  
3213 .

3214 . How do they just take the jobs? [It's someone's ch]oice to employ somebody. [They don't  
3215 . just come] here and pitch up and say 'oh I'm gunna ha[ve your job'. They apply for jobs in  
3216 . the same way as everyone else] they apply for jobs just like everyone else and in a market  
3217 . economy if I employ X who comes from Spain over (.) you know=  
3218 .

3219 . Nadine [if you're someone] [coming from  
3220 . Romania]  
3221 .

3222 . [((audience applause  
3223 . )))  
3224 .

3225 . Nadine =because in a black market economy people taking less money and less than the minimum  
3226 . wage [to work]  
3227 .

3228 . [well bla]ck mart economy is a completely separate issue=  
3229 .

3230 . David =ok[ay hold it]. [Norman Baker. No no I will come back- Norman Baker] what do you say  
3231 . to him (.) and her, and [to him]  
3232 .

3233 . (([laughter]))  
3234 .

3235 . Nadine [it does exist]  
3236 .

3237 . [well then do something about black market economy]  
3238 .

3239 . Norman well then let me say to you- look I remember canvassing at the Eastley by-election er last  
3240 . year and if- what you conclude from the UKIP campaign in Eastley was that the entire  
3241 . population of Romania and Bulgaria coming to this country all go to Eastley constituency  
3242 . perhaps that's why I've not seen any they're all in Eastley (.) at the moment erm the reality  
3243 . is that we have got to be very careful about the language on this. And overhyping what is a  
3244 . sensitive issue. It does not help er a sensible discussion about what is an issue that does  
3245 . concern many people. but there lack of er logic applied to this er Vince Cable was telling  
3246 . me that one of his constituents er that he was canvassing said 'oh I'm fed up with all  
3247 . these people coming to this country, I'm going to go live in Spain' and there's a sense of  
3248 . irony that she was exercising the same rights as people were exercising to come he↓re. And  
3249 . we've got Brits (.) all over the European Union working (.) everywhere, working, studying,  
3250 . exercising their treaty of rights. And [if we start]  
3251 .

3252 . Nadine [do you wa]nt a referendum Norman?  
3253 .

3254 . Norman start limiting other people's rights, then they'll start limiting (.) our rights as we↑ll. Of

3255 . course we want people to come here to live and work for treaty of righ- we don't want  
3256 . people to just get treatment on the health service, but the way this has been approached by  
3257 . some elements of the media has not been helpful it's been destructive. We need to be more  
3258 . careful about the language we use.

3259 .

3260 . David you sir

3261 .

3262 . Is anyone aware that Romanians and Bulgarians have been cut from finance over  
3263 . November by (.) David Willits? They have been cut nobody has been warned of this, the  
3264 . funds have been withdrawn from their own accounts, and they have been given short  
3265 . notice by the colleges t- to abandon the programmes

3266 .

3267 . David are you one of these?

3268 .

3269 . No I am er one of the representatives for their plea

3270 .

3271 . David right as a gov- you want to press them?

3272 .

3273 . I am addressing it to er the=

3274 .

3275 . David =what do you say to er this?

3276 .

3277 . Norman well I er understand the point you are making.

3278 .

3279 . (1)

3280 .

3281 . David er

3282 .

3283 . (([audience laughter]))

3284 .

3285 . It's a summary cessation of financing for Romanians and Bulgarians alone, in practice

3286 .

3287 . David why has that happened?

3288 .

3289 . Norman I can't I can't give you a direct answer to that.

3290 .

3291 . (2)

3292 .

3293 . Susie doesn't know.

3294 .

3295 . David you're not- oka:y. Chuka

3296 .

3297 . Chuka look, Nicolai who asked the question I I'm the son of an immigrant, and I think that  
3298 . immigration has been a good thing for our country, go back to the 1940s/50s when people  
3299 . arrived on the empire windrush who helped rebuild this country after the war, I mean what  
3300 . would our NHS do, without the immigrants in this country nevermind you we got [a few  
3301 . nobel peace prizes erm a few nobel prizes from er (.) our immigrants]. But I think Nicolai,  
3302 . all our people want is a system that is properly controlled and managed. We need- more  
3303 . work needs to be done on that. They want immigration to work for us economically and  
3304 . also people come over here to integrate. I don't think that's unreasonable. But what I have  
3305 . found is that I don't actually think er you- I've heard some of the comments made I don't  
3306 . think is an issue of racism actually, with a lot of people (.) in my constituency, during the  
3307 . 2010 election, ironically the people who tended to raise the immigration issues were my  
3308 . African and Asian constituents actually. And what it was really about that immigration is a  
3309 . proxy for people's concerns about the economy. Now where I've got a big issue with  
3310 . people like Nadine (.) and Paul are saying is that the problem with our economy is too low  
3311 . wage, and too low skill. And if you look at all the western economies we rank fifth in  
3312 . terms of er the percentage of our labour force is made up of those jobs. Now if you shut  
3313 . down the borders and we leave the European Union, it is not going to solve this problem  
3314 . with jobs going to blue collar [workers that N]adine was talking about. What we need to do

3315 is transform our economy, so w[e grow- NO, so we grow our] manufacturing [base], and  
3316 more jobs that pay more money, then that will solve the problem, not comi[ng out of  
3317 Europe]  
3318  
3319  
3320 (([audience  
3321 applause]))  
3322  
3323 David [are you- are]  
3324 [you've been on this ground] [all right]  
3325 [will you  
3326 answer]  
3327  
3328 Nadine [you didn't do it in thirteen years]  
3329  
3330 (([audience applaus ]))  
3331  
3332 Paul Chuka (.) you gu:ys allowed (.) in thirteen years more people to come to this country than  
3333 in a thousand years previous. You'll have four milli[on come]  
3334  
3335 David [and you've]e been apologising for it  
3336 ever since  
3337  
3338 Paul and apologising for it. Totally miscalculated and what you've done (.) in working class  
3339 towns and cities up and down the country, is people have come on site, onto building sites,  
3340 people have been undercut, and British workers have been driven off and now you find  
3341 they're either unemployed (.) or driving taxis [in many cases]  
3342  
3343 David [okay we've hea]rd we've heard Jack Straw,  
3344 and er David Blunkett apologising saying this was a mistake (1) well you can include  
3345 Peter Mandleson if you [like]. Erm (.) and you don't apologise for it=  
3346  
3347  
3348 Chuka [yes]  
3349  
3350 Chuka =no  
3351  
3352 David there's been no mistake?  
3353  
3354 Chuka no I- I certainly wouldn't say that. I think that in terms of the transitional controls in  
3355 respect of the countries that joined the European Union in 2004 we made a mistake in not  
3356 applying them but what I would say to Paul (.) is that lo:ok the way you help people is  
3357 ensuring you have- properly enforce the minimum wage, you get living wages, and you  
3358 grow our economy. I see absolutely no suggestions whatsoever com[ing from y]our party  
3359 to help the communities you're talking about.;;  
3360  
3361 Paul [hang on] Chuka you don't do  
3362 it by saturating the job market even further but that's what's happening  
3363  
3364 Chuka but what we need to do (.) is transform the job market, you've got nothing to add to that  
3365 direction at all.  
3366  
3367 David hold on (.) what does Labour say to the seventy seven percent of people in this county (.)  
3368 you'll have seen the statistic according to British social attitudes, who want to see  
3369 immigration cut. What is Labour's an:swer to that.  
3370  
3371 Chuka well I think on low skill immigration we believe there was too much of it from the  
3372 European Union, and I think there is one important thing about the European Union, the  
3373 founders had in mind the free movement of workers, not free movement of jobseekers.  
3374 And undoubtedly we do have to work with our European partners to do that and actually, I

3375 . er worked with a number of them this week, they're very open to that, constructively  
3376 . engage with them, rather than saying 'hey. Do what we want otherwise we're gunna walk  
3377 . off'  
3378 .  
3379 . David sorry what is free movement of workers [not jobseekers]? So you can't go and look for a  
3380 . job, you can=  
3381 .  
3382 . (([Paul laughs]))  
3383 .  
3384 . Chuka no no the point is you can come over=  
3385 .  
3386 . David =this is a radical reform of EU treaty coming along  
3387 .  
3388 . Chuka no no it's not. The difference is what people intended when they built the European Union  
3389 . in the first instance is that people who had a job or the skills to get a job would move  
3390 . around the European Union. The problem- is that we've had (.) at the moment, is that you  
3391 . had (.) during our time in office which is where we did make a mistake, you had high-  
3392 . skilled people coming from other countries to do low-skilled jobs here. That's where we've  
3393 . said there was too [much immigration]  
3394 .  
3395 . Paul [also the difference] was Chuka when it was set up, it was set up by  
3396 . countries with pretty similar economies, once you let the whole of Eastern Europe in, you  
3397 . ended up [with coun]tries with divergent economies and with countries that were far  
3398 . poorer. So it's only [one way]  
3399 .  
3400 . David [alright then]  
3401 . [okay well] I can't deconstruct the argu(.)ment. I did er promise this lady on the  
3402 . left whose been trying to get in before we move onto another question.  
3403 .  
3404 . Er Nadine er sorry I've forgotten your surname and the liberal gentleman, I don't know  
3405 . your name I've forgotten it=  
3406 .  
3407 . David =it doesn't matter [about their names]  
3408 .  
3409 . [It doesn't matter]  
3410 .  
3411 . (([audience laughter]))  
3412 .  
3413 . Conservative, Liberal Democrat=  
3414 .  
3415 . I am being serious at the moment. What I object to (.) strongly is this coalition government  
3416 . (.) which both of you belong to. USING th- the smokescreen (.) of immigration to hide (.)  
3417 . what you're doing. Privatising the NHS, killingu [the welfare service] (1) and this, you're a  
3418 . woman, you should care. WOMen, are going to be left holding the baby, when you bring  
3419 . us to pre-1948. h cos now y- you ca::n't get legal ai↑d anymor↑e, who suffers? Women.  
3420 . They're in a terrible marriage, they can't get out of it. The husband's got the money. Or the  
3421 . partner. Somehow you are trying, so well to make immigration the big issue, while you  
3422 . quietly, as I say privatise the health service, as you know, the welfare service, you ki↑ll,  
3423 . bringing in the gagging law, and Lewisham, as you know (.) we went to court, with Mr  
3424 . Hunt, we (.) won both times=  
3425 .  
3426 . (([audience applause]))  
3427 .  
3428 . David =all ri[ght]  
3429 .  
3430 . [just] a sec=  
3431 .  
3432 . David you're losing a bigger audience here cos people don't know exactly about what happened  
3433 . in Lewisham  
3434 .

3435 No=  
 3436  
 3437 David =BUT hang on, but you've brought us to a p[oint] that leads us onto the last question  
 3438  
 3439 [yes] ((continues))

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***Question Time (28<sup>th</sup> November 2013) Falkirk***

3440 David (...) Which perhaps will touch on what you were saying, madam, over there. Chris  
 3441 Mulholland has a question.

3442  
 3443 Q1 How will the Scottish Government accommodate th- the latest influx of European migrants  
 3444 in January (.) given the lack of jobs and housing?

3445  
 3446 David Given the lack of jobs and housing here in Scotland, how will you – and the SNP says it  
 3447 wants to encourage immigration – how will that work, Alistair Carmichael?

3448  
 3449 Alistair I think that we should be prepared to welcome people to come here from other parts of the  
 3450 wo:rlld, especially from the European Uni↑on, er if there are jobs and if they are coming  
 3451 here to make a contribution. I take your point that you know we still have over 7% of our  
 3452 own people unemplo↑yed, so we should be looking at everything that we can do to get  
 3453 the:m into work, but the truth of the matter is that, whatever happens, we have an ageing  
 3454 population in Scotland (.) the future. This is going to be especially true if Scotland were to  
 3455 be an independent country. We will need more people of a working age to pay the pensions  
 3456 of people who are reti↑red, [because at] the moment (.) at the moment, the way things are  
 3457 going, Scotland is going to be in an even mo:re challenged position than the rest of the  
 3458 United Kingdom i- in that regard.

3459  
 3460 David [whe- wu-] What do you make of what the Prime Minister  
 3461 announced in Westminster about all these changes on benefits, which you- you originally  
 3462 said, "It would put us on the wrong side of the European Union and I don't want to find  
 3463 myself in that territory" Have you changed your view now?

3464  
 3465 Alistair No no (.) what I said when I was asked about when I said that was if you made these  
 3466 changes solely in relation to people coming from the new accession countries Romania  
 3467 and Bulga↓ria (.) these changes that are being announced today, which are pretty  
 3468 straightforward (.) they're pretty sensible managerial issues if you come from another EU  
 3469 country, you are not going to be able to claim Jobseeker's Allowance for the first three  
 3470 months of being he↑re that will put us in the same position as Germany, the Netherlands,  
 3471 and other places. I think that's perfectly sensible.

3472  
 3473 David Is that alright for Scotland, though?=  
 3474

3475 Alistair =I have absolutely no difficulty with that=  
 3476

3477 David =Is it alright for Scotland, because the SNP says, "Scotland needs immigration," whereas  
 3478 the implication is that England doesn't.

3479

3480 Alistair What Scotland would need would be people to come and work here, and settle here, and to  
3481 contri†bute here. We know that, but I don't see that that's necessarily going to [relate to  
3482 00222] people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the first three months=

3483  
3484 David =Nicola Sturgeon.

3485  
3486 [((audience applause)) ]

3487  
3488 Nicola [There may not be too much difference here] between Alistair and I on this issue. I think  
3489 the first point to make is we are a nation of immigrants. We're also a nation of emigrants.  
3490 There are Scots living and descendants of Scots living literally in every corner of the globe.  
3491 I think the starting principle here should be that we should give people coming to live in  
3492 Scotland the same welcome as we would expect and want for Scots going to live in other  
3493 parts of the world. But There are big issues here that I think make for important  
3494 discussions. I represent the part of Glasgow that has the biggest concentration of mi::grants  
3495 from Central and Eastern Europe Govanhill in Glasgow and there are challenges there.  
3496 It's not challenges associated with where people co†me from, incidentally, it's challenges  
3497 associated with the very significant and rapid rise in population in an area that was already  
3498 very densely popula†ted. We need to make sure the inve:stment, and the services, and the  
3499 work done to integrate and make sure that people are welcomed properly and that these  
3500 things are catered for. We need to do that, but the bigger issue, I think, is about Scotland's  
3501 future need for (.) people to come and do skilled jobs here, to have targeted immigration,  
3502 because we do: have a big challenge of growing our working-age population. Having an  
3503 ageing population doesn't make us unique and it's actually a good thing that our  
3504 population is ageing, but we need to make sure that our working population is growing to  
3505 support that ageing po[pulation]. Some of the policies of the UK Government – taking  
3506 away the right of young people that we educate to stay here after they graduate to work, by  
3507 taking away the post-study visa, is just the wrong thing to do. If we had control over  
3508 immigration, we could put in place policies which are sensible for our economy. That, I  
3509 think, is one of the big benefits

3510  
3511 David [Can I] I want to go back to [the question, if I may], Chris. Chris  
3512 Mulholland, you clearly ha:d concerns. Can you just explain what your concerns are a bit,  
3513 because both these speakers have said, as far as they're concerned, "Everything is fine"?

3514  
3515 [((audience applause))]

3516  
3517 Q1 I have absolutely no problem with people coming here with something to offer, but (.) it  
3518 seems to be too easy to come into Scotland and the UK and just get preferential treatment  
3519 over people who already live here. I think that's wrong. er (.) I've been in a situation where  
3520 I've worked every week since I left school 23 years. I couldn't get a mortgage (.) I went to  
3521 a local council office and they more or less say to me, "You're the wrong nationality to get  
3522 anywhere on the housing list," forced me into an astronomical private let, which I can  
3523 barely afford. I can't save up a deposit or nothing like that=

3524  
3525 David =You're the wrong nationality in what sense?

3526  
3527 Q1 That the immigrants are placed further up the housing list than people who already live  
3528 here, people that are working here. I think that's wrong.

3529  
3530 David Thank you. Do you think that's the Scottish Parliament's doing or Westminster's do†ing

3531 . and would be affected by independence for Scotland?

3532 .

3533 . Q1 I think it's both.

3534 .

3535 . David Both. [Anna]bel Bowlding.

3536 .

3537 . Q1 [aye]

3538 .

3539 . Annabel Certainly the issue is one reserved to Westminster; that's quite correct. I think, as both

3540 . Nicola and Alistair were indicating, and funnily enough I found myself in agreement with

3541 . bo↑th, because there is an issue for Scotland and that is we do know without a shadow of a

3542 . doubt that our population, our older element of the population, is ageing proportionately at

3543 . a greater pace than the rest of the UK. We do, as one of the other questions indicated, have

3544 . to give thought about how do we support (.) you know those who will have to have

3545 . pensions paid, who will have other public service needs. And I think it is the case that we

3546 . are a welcoming country, we're a welcoming set of countries within the United Kingdom,

3547 . and I think we do need skills that are not currently available. It's good to be able to

3548 . encourage these skills to come to the country and I'm delighted if people can bring these

3549 . skills and can work. What Alistair was talking about was where people were coming and

3550 . may very well have been expecting to go on benefit indefinitely, because that is the system

3551 . of welfare provision. What the UK Government has said is, in relation to Bulgaria and

3552 . Romania, "No. You're going to have to qualify (.) for er benefit and you're simply not

3553 . going to get that after a certain time." That's you know (.) all about it.

3554 .

3555 . David The woman in green there

3556 .

3557 . Q2 M- my question to the panel is instead of enco:uraging migrants from whate↑ver country

3558 . they- member come from I know that we have to under the EU rules, have to let them

3559 . come in, but instead of actively encou↑raging them to come i::n and bring their skills with

3560 . them, why don't we concentrate on [up-skilling], [and training, and] inve↑sting in our

3561 . o↑wn young people?=  
3562 .

3563 . Panellists [Absolutely] [absolutely yeah ]

3564 .

3565 . Margaret =absolutely yeah an- the lady in green, if I may call you that. I think that's a ve:ry

3566 . important point and I do think sometimes the apparent failure to take action sometimes

3567 . does cause that kind of conflict and tension around the debate in immigration. I think it's

3568 . really important the particular agencies who take over migrant labour are not allowed to

3569 . continue to exploit that and perhaps undercut wages. That's certainly part of Labour's

3570 . approach to tackling immigration and something we do:: need to tackle in order to go

3571 . for↓ward. On your general question, I think most people would accept that immigration in

3572 . principle is a good thing – I'm the daughter of immigrants myself – but it needs to be

3573 . managed and it needs to be fair and effective. We should be clear about the rules that are

3574 . applied to everyone and the rules should apply fairly. I have to say, I would be very

3575 . concerned at any housing person saying, "I'm sorry, you can't get a house on the basis of

3576 . your nationality"=  
3577 .

3578 . David =Do you think it happens as he says?

3579 .

3580 . Margaret I'm sure the man is not a liar, so I'm presuming that that's the evidence. I think that should

3581 . be addressed and I'm sure I would have agreement from my colleagues that that should be



3582 . addressed, because people should get housing on the basis of their need (.) they shouldn't  
3583 . get it on the basis of their nationality. We do have an issue about migration in Scotland  
3584 . and it does have implications for independence, I'm afraid, and we will need to think that  
3585 . through about borders and suchlike and the rules applying to that. We do need to think  
3586 . about that.

3587 .  
3588 . David You, sir, on the right here.

3589 .  
3590 . Q3 Thank you. Talking of the borders, I've come up from near Gretna Green today, travelling  
3591 . up this afternoon listening to the Richard Bacon Show. They had er several politicians and  
3592 . people talking on there about this very subject and one of the things was David Cameron.  
3593 . (.) the Labour politician was saying they hate this policy he's bringing in for 1<sup>st</sup> January;  
3594 . it's a little too late. However, if the SNP do get their referendum and they start pushing  
3595 . how much Scotland is going to be wonderful, we're going to become the land of milk and  
3596 . honey (.) we're going to have even mo<sup>↑</sup>re people coming. Their point was we will then  
3597 . sort David Cameron's immigration problem out, because they won't want to say in  
3598 . England, they'll want to come to Sco:tland.

3599 .  
3600 . David Are you in favour of that or against that?

3601 .  
3602 . Q3 I'm against it, because we're the first line of defence in Scotland, is down at the borders,  
3603 . and we're the ones whose houses are getting taken over (.) we're the ones whose job  
3604 . ((audience laughter)) people may laugh, but the first place anyone who doesn't know  
3605 . where they're going, they fi:↑lter out from the border. They don't go pick a point on a map  
3606 . and go, "I'm going to go to Auchtermuchty, or Aberdeen, or Falkirk," they'll go, "Where  
3607 . do we go?"

3608 .  
3609 . David Patrick Harvie?  
3610 .

3611 .  
3612 . Patrick Well I do think talking about the first-line defence is a wee bit overkill ((laughter)). It kind  
3613 . of prete:nds that foreign equals ba::d and that immigrant equals threat, and there are some  
3614 . real myth<sup>s</sup> that need to be challenged here. Immigration contri↑butes more to the economy  
3615 . across [the whole of the UK than erm people receive in welfare payme]nts. Recent  
3616 . immigrants are less likely than the settled population ei:ther to claim benefits or to live in  
3617 . social housing. Where there are problems around the supply of social housing (.) and there  
3618 . are (.) we should be investing in building more social housing Where there are problems  
3619 . around public services, we should be investing more in public services, and where there are  
3620 . economic problems that lead to a lack of skills or employment, [that's w]hat we should be  
3621 . investing in. The UK Government, they're cutting these things right now.

3622 .  
3623 . [[[ audience applause ]]]

3624 .  
3625 . David [Patrick], you're not  
3626 . persuading him- he's shaking his head as you speak.

3627 .  
3628 . Patrick I beg your pardon?

3629 .  
3630 . David You're not persuading him, because he's shaking his head as you speak.

3631  
3632 . Q3 We don't have the infrastructure to have thousands and hundreds of thousands of people  
3633 . that may come in. We're talking (.) Th- these houses just aren't going to get made. There  
3634 . are not the brown-belt sites to build these houses (.) there are not the schools in place, there  
3635 . are n↑ot the hospitals, there's no↑t the fire service, there's[no↑t the police service in p]lace.

3636  
3637 . Patrick [There is certainly capacity] to  
3638 . be investing in social housing in Scotland, for domestic need as well as for migration  
3639 . need. That's something we should be doing regardless of the numbers coming in and out.  
3640 . Actually, if you look at the numbers coming in and out (.) and Nicola talked about Scots as  
3641 . emigrants as well, it's mostly the same countries that people are coming in and out of the  
3642 . UK to and from, so let's get this into a little bit of perspective and recognise that migration  
3643 . is as much an opportunity and we shouldn't talk about it in terms of threat.

3644  
3645 . David Eddi Reader?

3646  
3647 . Eddi Who- who's frightening you about this big influx of people that are coming in, these  
3648 . people that are going to need something from us? Who is frightening you about that?

3649  
3650 . Q1 It's not a case of who's frightening; it's a case of it's the reality, it's what's going to  
3651 . happen=  
3652  
3653 . Eddi =How do you know it's the reality?=  
3654

3655 . Q3 =Because we're a very prosperous European country. We are very prosperous and all the  
3656 . other countries, th- the 29 or whatever it is in Europe, there are a lot of them who are no::t  
3657 . as prosperous as we are. It is just natural that people will want to better themselves; they  
3658 . want to up-skill themselves, they want to financially [provide for their family] No, there's  
3659 . nothing wro[ng with that, but we've got to But] there's got to be the infrastructure, there's  
3660 . [got to be the housing] When that gentleman up there can't get a house and he's lived and  
3661 . paid his taxes, he's gone to school, can't get one, there's something morally wrong=  
3662

3663  
3664 . Eddi [What's wrong with that?]

3665  
3666 . Patrick [Mr Cameron's proposals are that]  
3667 . [Absolutely, absolutely]

3668  
3669 . Eddi =I think that person that told him he was back in the queue, he had to be fired, whoever's  
3670 . [told him that, because that's not fair=]

3671  
3672 . [((audience applause)) ]

3673  
3674 . Q3 [I agree, yeah ]

3675  
3676 . Patrick [You're making an excellent case that ]we need investment in infrastructure, and services,  
3677 . and housing. What we don't need is Mr Cameron's suggestions that rich people should be  
3678 . able to move and poor people [should be less able ]

3679  
3680 . (((Audience applause)))

3681  
3682 . Eddi [It's not fair]

3683  
3684 . David The woman up there at the back on the left. I want to hear from you.

3685  
3686 . Q4 Surely, if there's currently a question about our membership in Europe, if we were an  
3687 . independent country, if we didn't become a member of the European Union, there  
3688 . wouldn't be this issue over immigration, because the issue at the moment is migrants  
3689 . coming from the rest of Europe.

3690  
3691 . David So you would like to see an independent Scotland stay outside the European Union, would  
3692 . you?

3693  
3694 . Q4 Not necessarily, but at the moment there does seem to be a question about whether we  
3695 . would become automatically European Union members, given the comments from the  
3696 . Spanish Prime Minister this week.

3697  
3698 . David What's your view about that? Do you think it's (1) likely that it won't be automatic?

3699  
3700 . Q4 I think it's a little bit like the currency debate, where it's something that people are putting  
3701 . barriers up at the moment, but if we got a 'yes' vote in the referendum, it would become  
3702 . something that wasn't such an issue.

3703  
3704 . David Margaret, is it really possible that Scotland would not be allowed into the EU, in your  
3705 . view, as an independent country?

3706  
3707 . Margaret I think it's not automatic. I would hope that Scotland could join the EU and hopefully we  
3708 . would be welcomed into it, but the critical issue is the conditions that are attached to that.  
3709 . In terms of the rebate, in terms of open borders, in terms of the euro, other member states,  
3710 . on whom we would need their unanimous agreement, would put conditions on that. It's  
3711 . the conditions that are attached to that that would materially affect life in Scotland going  
3712 . forward and content with all those issues.

3713  
3714 . David [Do you think from] Do you think it might be different from the position now [of  
3715 . the UK?]

3716  
3717 . Margaret [It  
3718 . could be] very different]. We might not get the rebate, we might have to apply to the EU-  
3719 . euro and the open borders arrangement that we've currently got. The opt-out on open  
3720 . borders might not apply, so it's actually very significant and there are no guarantees. The  
3721 . white paper from the SNP has not given us any guarantees or answers on this=

3722  
3723 . David [alright] Nicola Sturgeon?

3724  
3725 . =((audience applause))

3726  
3727 Nicola To listen to Margaret Curren you really have to wonder how 150 countries have managed  
3728 to become independent [since the end of the Second World War.

3729  
3730 Margaret [That's not the point]

3731  
3732 Nicola [On the European issue] On the European=

3733  
3734 [((audience applause))]

3735  
3736 Alistair =They clearly didn't want to join the EU=

3737  
3738 Nicola =Some of the members of the European Union are fairly recently independent countries,  
3739 but on that issue, if we vote yes in September next year, we don't become independent the  
3740 day after; there's an 18-month transition period, we're still part of the UK – and by  
3741 definition Europe. We negotiate the transition of our membership within that time. We're  
3742 not asking for any special terms (.) we're asking for the terms we've got right now to  
3743 continue. I think the bottom line is this is anybody seriously suggesting that Scotland, with  
3744 everything we bring to the European table, wouldn't be warmly welcomed as a  
3745 continuing member? That is simply not credible.

3746  
3747 David [Secretary of State for Scotland, this is an endorsement of Scotland's strength]

3748  
3749 [((audience applause)) ]

3750  
3751 Alistair This comes to the crux of it, actually, because Nicola says, "We're not asking for special  
3752 terms." We have got special terms. If we walk away from the United Kingdom, we walk  
3753 away fr[om] these special terms]

3754  
3755 Nicola [We're not walking an]ywhere; we're staying where we are.

3756  
3757 Alistair That is the fact (.) that's what we heard last night from the Spanish Prime Minister. He told  
3758 us, "Yes, of course you can apply, but you will have to apply as a new entrant," and we  
3759 wouldn't be able to get the same opportunities=

3760  
3761 Patrick =I thought the on[e] thing that everybody on both sides. I thought the one thing]

3762  
3763 Alistair [We wouldn't be able to get the same opportunities that we c]urrently  
3764 ha:ve. We got a pretty clear signal of that from the Spanish Prime Minister himself last  
3765 night, because it's not in h[is inte]rest, looking to the Catalans and the Basques, to make it  
3766 look easy for an independent Scotland [to join the EU]

3767  
3768 Patrick [Alistair]

3769  
3770 David [all right cut to the chase]

3771

3772 . Patrick Alistair, yes, I know he wants to send a signal to the Catalans and he doesn't really support  
3773 . the idea that the Catalonians should be able to decide their ow:n fate in a referendum, [but I  
3774 . thought the one thing]

3775  
3776 . Alistair [Yes,  
3777 . it is one of the things] that you have to get agreement from.

3778  
3779 . Patrick on both sides on yes or no I thought the one thing we all agreed about in this referendum  
3780 . was that it's the decision of the Scottish p\_eople, not the decision of the Spanish Prime  
3781 . Minister=

3782  
3783 . =(((audience applause)).)]

3784  
3785 . David [Very briefly, Alistair, br]iefly, what would not be available to Scotland that is available as  
3786 . a member of the United Kingdom?

3787  
3788 . Alistair You have to wonder if Croatia, for example, as the most recent entrant=

3789  
3790 . David =Hang on (.) let's talk about the United Kingdom=

3791  
3792 . Alistair =No, Croatia has been told that she cannot have the same favourable terms that we have  
3793 . got, but she has joined any↑way, so why would Croatia agree to us joining with special  
3794 . terms that weren't open to her?=  
3795  
3796 . David =What are these special terms?

3797  
3798 . Alistair The rebate on our budg[et contributions.]

3799  
3800 . Nicola [But this is contin]uity of effect, it's what we['ve got just now].

3801  
3802 . Margaret [That's the issue]

3803  
3804 . Alistair The commitment to joi[n the euro, the ability to travel within the Schengen group]

3805  
3806 . Patrick [We wouldn't be allowed to join the euro, even if we tried]

3807  
3808 . Nicola Exactly, we wouldn't even fulfil the [requirem]ents.

3809  
3810 . Patrick [Absolutely.]

3811  
3812 . Alistair But you still have to make the commitment.

3813  
3814 . Patrick [No, you don't]

3815  
3816 Nicola [The only risk t]o Scotland's membership of Europe is the in/out referendum being  
3817 promised by David Cameron. That's the only risk to our membership=  
  
3818  
3819 =((audience applause))  
  
3820  
3821 Q5 Perhaps the rest of the EU might be willing to accept a swap of an independent Scotland  
3822 for Spain or Greece  
  
3823  
3824 ((Laughter))  
  
3825  
3826 David Alright let's move on, because we've got many other questions ((continues))

---

***Question Time (17<sup>th</sup> October 2013): Basingstoke***

3827 Phillip: can the UK cope with any more immigration (.) after Christmas?  
  
3828  
3829 David can the UK cope with anymore immigration after Christmas? Diane James. UKIP  
3830 has strong views on immigration and-  
  
3831  
3832 Diane We do indeed and er (.) thank you for your question. I don't believe we can, it's a  
3833 simple as that. we've got no idea (.) and I'm sure everyone will agree exactly how  
3834 many people will come from the two countries in question where the (.) er err where  
3835 the current restrictions are there coming into the UK  
  
3836  
3837 David Bulgaria and Romania you're talking about?  
  
3838  
3839 Diane I'm talking about Romania and Bulgaria. But what we do know for instance is that  
3840 there is two million of them in Spain, they've already made that move therefore the  
3841 likelihood for them coming to the UK is pretty high. (0.5) We also know that the  
3842 government will not admit what sort of forecast they have (.) er and then we've got  
3843 this latest EU Commissioner report and this whole issue with over six hundred  
3844 thousand inactive EU migrants here already. Seventy-three percent increase in the  
3845 number that haven't got a job and what that does mean if we translate that and I think  
3846 we can translate that I'm not going to detract from that. There is going to be a  
3847 pressure when these two countries restrictions are lifted and those people are gonna  
3848 come here and they are gonna come here it's a very very nice deal (.) coming to the  
3849 UK in terms of access to benefits and I'm sure Mark is going to try and come back to  
3850 me and say 'well we've got this under control' hh the coalition the conservatives  
3851 haven't got it under control  
3852  
3853 David Well what would you have the government do that was within the law?  
3854  
3855 Diane with the wit  
3856  
3857 David Within the EU of which we are all members until=

3858  
3859 Diane =well

3860  
3861 David until UKIP gets its WAY

3862  
3863 Diane I wouldn't be messing about with this discussion about repatriation of powers it  
3864 would just be a straightforward no they cannot come in, and the way to achieve that is  
3865 out of the EU. It's as simple as that.

3866  
3867 ((audience applause: 8 seconds))

3868  
3869 David Mark Harper

3870  
3871 Mark I think it was just getting some facts at home it's worth reminding people that er of  
3872 the immigration into the country onl- over half a day is from outside the EU and only  
3873 about a third of the immigration to Britain is from the (.) EU. And even when Labour  
3874 was in power by its own admission let er. European immigration get out of control.  
3875 It was still the case TWice as much immigration was from outside the EU so the idea  
3876 that this is all about the EU and there is nothing we can do which is UKIPs contention  
3877 in this instance ((Diane smiles and shakes her head persistently)) is nonsense. The  
3878 government's reduced net migration by a third since we=

3879  
3880 Diane =oh rub[bish]

3881  
3882 Mark [com]e to power

3883  
3884 Diane Oh Mark you know [that] is rubbish

3885  
3886 Mark [still]

3887  
3888 Mark No that is absolutely true.

3889  
3890 Diane It's n[ot be]caus[e you c]an't you can-

3891  
3892 Mark [noo-] [Diane]

3893  
3894 Diane because you can't count them in

3895  
3896 Mark it is true

3897  
3898 Diane and you can't count them out

3899  
3900 Mark these are robust figures that the independent Office for National Statistics put

3901 . together it's down by a third but we've got more skilled workers coming to Britain  
3902 . we've got more students coming to Britain in the most important thing is unlike when  
3903 . Labour was in power the growth in employment we've seen in Britain so the one  
3904 . point is a million more people in employment the bulk of that benefit has now gone to  
3905 . BritiSH people which is not the case when Labour were in powe-

3906  
3907 . David Alright well what about after- after Christmas which was the question

3908  
3909 . Mark well (.) w↑e we've been quite straightforwa=

3910  
3911 . David =which is a European ques[tion]

3912  
3913 . Mark [well] yes

3914  
3915 . David Bulga[ria a]nd Roma[nia]

3916  
3917 . Mark [it is] [we]'ve been quite straightforward. WE don't have any any  
3918 . secret forecast we've been quite honest (.) there are eight other European countries  
3919 . who have transitional controls who'll be er removing ((waves hand)) them at the end  
3920 . of the year so it's not like 2004: where we were the only country that let people er  
3921 . come to Britain when the East European A8 countries joine- eight other European  
3922 . countries h clearly some people will come here and we'll have to see what happens,  
3923 . but they can go to eight other European countries w- we haven't made a forecast there  
3924 . are no secret forecasts=

3925  
3926 . David =you haven't made a forecast?

3927  
3928 . Mark no

3929  
3930 . David why haven't you made a forecast?

3931  
3932 . Mark our experts have advised us that TRYing to make a forecast when you've got [eight]  
3933 . other countries

3934  
3935 . David [what?]

3936  
3937 . David well isn't there another country you can go and speak t=

3938  
3939 . Mark =well wel-

3940  
3941 . David the people yo[u su]rvey (.) you surv[ey pu]blic opinion in this country every five  
3942 . minutes of the day (.) both parties you- you alter your policies to suit every single  
3943 . tiny change. And you're saying you can't to Bulgaria and ask anyone what their plans  
3944 . are?

3945



3946 Mark [we-] [all t-]

3947

3948 Mark well all the survey work that's °been done°=

3949

3950 David your leader ((looks at Diane)) went to Romania ask whether-

3951

3952 ((Diane and someone else laughs))

3953

3954 Mark and most of the people that Nigel Farage said they didn't want to come to Britain at

3955 all 'thanks very much'

3956

3957 Bonnie s'all right for the Chinese to come Mar?

3958

3959 Mark if they're coming here to study and if they're coming here to invest and come to visit

3960 and spend money in our shops then absolutely it [is]

3961

3962 Bonnie [th]ey're comin to visi^t?

~~3963~~

3964 Mark absolutely (.) we've got erm (.) we've got over two hundred thousand Chinese people

3965 come to visit Britain and they spend money in our shops they [invest money in our

3966 busine]sses

3967

3968

3969 David [alright well we're about

] immigration

3970

3971 Mark I mean=

3972

3973 David =not Chinese visit[ors]

3974

3975 Mark [no] no

3976

3977 David so: Bon[nie] °I know° Bonnie Gear

3978

3979 Mark [it's]

3980

3981 Bonnie no I hh=

3982

3983 David =then I'll come t-

3984

3985 Bonnie I'm not a politician and a gunna sit here throwo a whole lot of uhhh figures around at

3986 you I'm just sick and ti(h)red of this conversa↑tion I'm sick and tired every year every

3987 government talking about immigration hh we (.) what we don't want to happen

3988  
3989 ((some isolated applause)) and I think that what this government (.) has done I do  
3990 this government has i:s allowed a vigorous necessary discussion in a thriving  
3991 democracy (.) to descend into xenophobia it is beneath the British pe[ople to do that]  
er: it i- it is beneath this democracy

3992  
3993 Audience [(loud applause)]

3994  
3995 Bonnie let's have a sane reasonable discussion we are not going to have on January 1<sup>st</sup>  
3996 their Bulgarians and Romanians coming over with their covered wa:gons and their  
3997 and hor:ses and their children and thi:eves and the robber that's not g[oi]ng to happen  
3998 we have] to] be very car- we have to be very careful in talking about this (.) and make  
3999 sure that we don't appear t- to be to be a replica o- of the National Front in in Fra:nce  
4000 it's very very important so (.) so don't go to xenophobia, calm now, let's talk about  
4001 this reasonab[ly ]

4002  
4003 Audience [(isolated  
4004 applause)]

4005  
4006 [(loud applause)]

4007  
4008 David you sir ((points))

4009  
4010 Alan yes (0.5) I'm a district councillor in the neighbouring er er: borough which is a er Hart  
4011 District Council and er one of our biggest issues is the development. Development of  
4012 all the houses that have to put in. (.) we just had our local plan er (.) thrown away by  
4013 the government because they're saying w- we factored in a zero net migration  
4014 number (.) er erm and they've said absolutely not that's that's not the case um 'you  
4015 have to develop more houses'. We're talking about thirty five hundred houses (.) in  
4016 Hart District Council over the next 15 years now the government practically  
4017 wants us to 'double' that. Where are we gunna put seven thousand new houses (.) in  
4018 Hart district council how we- how are we gunna have the bandwidth in our schools  
4019 and hospitals and so on so forth to acc(h)omodate all those people?

4020  
4021 Audience ((moderate applause: 3 seconds))

4022  
4023 David Justin hunt (.) he said. Can you pick up his exact point

4024  
4025 Justin I I don't know wha the: the government's p- proposing for yo↑u as a: an elected  
4026 councillor in in terms of how you're gunna m- manage the migration. My concern is  
4027 (.) what this government is not doing is learning the lessons of our time er: in  
4028 government when (.) labour party er was in government and we didn't have the  
4029 correct numbers er for the number of er EU nationals er coming in (.) to work. The  
4030 figures we were given er by civil servants were wi::ldly (.) off. We didn't drill down  
4031 into the data (.) er effectively and as a result our public policy w[as a-]

4032  
4033 Bonnie [why] not?

4034  
4035 Justin not in the r[ight place]

4036  
4037 Bonnie [why no:t?]

4038  
4039  
4040 Justin we we believed the official figures we were given erm and they pro- proved wildly  
4041 offhh I'm hoping on hoping Mark Harper is is drilling into this er sort of fracking  
viga:: of some of these statistics (.) b[ut look]

4042  
4043  
4044 David [but should] but look (.) hang on. What good will it  
4045 do if he finds out ((points at Alan)) tha- that the gentleman from Ha:rt is correct and he's  
got to build seven thousand houses instead of three and a half thousand homes

4046  
4047  
4048 Justin of because you've got to pla↑n er: because let us let us not underestimate the  
4049 importance free movement of labour across the European u↑nion your children will  
4050 want to work in Fra:nce or Spain. You might want to retire in Fra:nce or Spain. You  
4051 might have business connections er in Italy. The free movement of labo[ur is an]  
4052 mportant part of the European Union and WE have er (.) GROwn in prosperity as a  
4053 result [of it. let's no]t so we've got to manage the transitions well but let's not lose  
sight of the importance of where we are in the European Union

4054  
4055 David [all right]

4056  
4057 [yes thank you]

4058  
4059 David Peter Egmond

4060  
4061 Peter I- I agree with (.) Mr Hunt that (.) free movement of labour is a- a wonderful thing.  
4062 But the problem of the European Union is that it's going foward (.) too fast much like it  
4063 when it went much too fast towards the (.) Euro. Which is causing utter destruction i- in  
4064 Southern Europe. It's moving too fast with this freedom of movement of labour. Let me  
4065 just give you one fact (.) which is actually central to this whole argument. And that is that  
4066 the average wage i: in Bulgaria and Romania is le: approximately ha:lf the minimum  
4067 wage (.) in Britain. And so this is why last time when Labour got it wrong we had Polish  
4068 professors comin- coming along to be cleaners in Britain. A:nd it does have an effect I'm  
4069 afraid and like that councillor up there described it absolutely beautifully. The effect on  
4070 public se↑rvices, scho:ols, housing, all of these things. I reckon tha- Europe itself needs to  
4071 admit that its made a frightful (.) nonsense. (.) it's going to be the same problem (0.5) in  
4072 Germany and France, and I think it's time to look again °you have time° and say to  
4073 Bulgaria and Romania that it's not a good idea at the moment, to er: go ahead with this. A-  
4074 a:nd sh- for the sake of Bulgaria and Romania who doesn't want to lose their best people  
4075 (.) let's just put it on hold for a few years.

4076  
4077 David okay. You sir at the back there

4078  
4079 The tory elite in this area have got it completely wrong. In my town, we're close to waiting  
4080 twenty one days for a doctor's appointment. In my county, they're about to pull down four  
4081 care homes. Those care homes are the family silver. They love, they look after they  
4082 manage our elderly well. We're going to pull them down to privatisation. We are so out of  
4083 touch in this area it's unbeliev[able]

4084  
4085 ??? [who's?]

4086  
4087 . David no no let him finish

4088  
4089 . Completely lost control f what is happening on a local level. The cuts (.) the cuts have  
4090 . gone far too far. It's time to rebuild the fabric of our society, rather than the tory way of  
4091 . destroying it=

4092  
4093 . Bonnie absolutely

4094  
4095 . ((applause))

4096  
4097 . David and sir ho: how is that related to immigration from Bulgaria and Romania?

4098  
4099 . Quite simple. We cannot take any more. Our county cannot absorb any more. We are full.

4100  
4101 . David right

4102  
4103 . We are going to close to business pretty soon

4104  
4105 . ((applause))

4106  
4107 . David Mark Harper

4108  
4109 . Mark well there's two things. First of all like what I said before is that we recognise some of the  
4110 . pressures on public service, housing the gentleman from Hartley district council made on  
4111 . immigration. Which is why we've reduced it by a third. We're gonna continue to reduce it  
4112 . from the uncontrolled levels that we had under Labour.

4113  
4114 . David which immigration?

4115  
4116 . Mark net immigration to the country. As I said most immigration is from ou:tside the European  
4117 . Union=

4118  
4119 . David =they're the people you send vans around saying 'go home if you're illegal'

4120  
4121 . ((audience laughter))

4122  
4123 . Mark well if you're illegal yes, I don't see any problem with saying to people who have no right  
4124 . to be in the United Kingdom that they [shouldn't be there anymore]

4125  
4126 . Justin [shameful]

4127

4128 . Bonnie [so you put around a white va:n?] a stupid white van?

4129

4130 . Mark picking up that gentleman's point at the back here ab[o- about]

4131

4132 . David [do you st]ill er: rr since you made

4133 the point the 'HERe illegally' go home or risk arrest (.) you still support that? You'd like to

4134 see more of that=

4135

4136 . Mark =well it was a pilot (.) we're assessing the results a[t the moment. If the pil]ot shows we

4137 w[ere successful in p]ersuading people to return hom- no no I'm not going to give a

4138 running commentary, we're going to publish the results when we've done the evaluation, if

4139 its successful then we'll look at rolling it out, if its not (.) su- successful then we won't. I

4140 don't want to spend fifteen thousand pounds, of taxpayers' money removing every single

4141 individual. I want to (.) people that have no right to be here should leave the country. And

4142 that's what we want to do. The immigration bill which we published er which we'll be da-

4143 bating next month is about making it er welcoming people who contribute and deterring

4144 those that don't. And that's an impo[rtant point to get right]

4145

4146 . Justin [ha ha ha ha how many?]

4147

4148 . Bonnie [how many Mark?]

4149

4150 . David [holding those views] holding those views you're not

4151 ala[rmed about the open door policy on Romania and Bulgaria?

4152

4153 . Mark well we haven't got an open door=

4154

4155 . David you ha[ve got an open] door uh who's not allowed in

4156

4157 . [No we haven't] [uh] other people who come here to work=

4158

4159 . David so who isn't allowed in?

4160

4161 . Mark we've tightened up=

4162

4163 . David =on January first

4164

4165 . Mark the access to benefits, we tightened up the access (.) to services and access for example to

4166 social housing. So (.) local councils for example c'n prioritise housing to local people who

4167 [live here]

4168

4169 . David [so you're] making undesirable for people to come here °is what you're saying°

4170

4171 . Mark if people are coming here to wo:rk and contribute and pay taxes, and make a contribution, I

4172 have no problem with that. But we wanna make sure people don't abuse free

4173 . movement. Christian was ri↓ght, free movement is oka:y, abuse of free movement isn't,  
4174 . we've been working hard with partners to m[ake su]re it isn't

4175  
4176 . David [okay Bonnie Gear]

4177  
4178 . Bonnie [this is] this is one of the reasons why we don't  
4179 . Trust politics or politicians anymore. [I- I- you know and I'm not saying it to get applause]  
4180 . or anything. We've been sitting here listening to Mark and Patricia (.) you know really nice  
4181 . guys, you know basically Labour didn't get the numbers right I mean what are they hired  
4182 . for if they didn't get the numbers right h and now, Mark is saying something about doing  
4183 . a pilot with the white v:ans, [you know] THIS ISN'T, THIS IS NOT what we expect. We  
4184 . exp[ect our politicians t]o get it right, to prepare us for whatever is going to happen, not  
4185 . to start some sort of dog whistle xenophobic rant about people coming in and out of the  
4186 . country because it doesn't e- er at the end of the day we pay for it no matter what the deal

4187  
4188 . [((audience applause)) ]  
4189 . [((laughter))]  
4190 . [((applause)) ]

4191  
4192 . Diane but Bonnie it's not a xenophobic rant

4193  
4194 . Bonnie it i:s

4195  
4196 . Diane it's not

4197  
4198 . Bonnie not from you, not from you. But it descends into that level

4199  
4200 . Diane part [of my problem is]

4201  
4202 . Davis [why are you acc]using these two men of xenophobic rants but not Diane James?

4203  
4204 . Bonnie I didn't say they were xenophobic sorry. I didn't say they were making a xenophobic rant.  
4205 . They di= ((audience member begins talking)) I'm so↑rry?

4206  
4207 . ((inaudible))

4208  
4209 . David xenophobia, you said

4210  
4211 . Bonnie no I, I- (.) pardon?

4212  
4213 . Bonnie's right. She's not accusing (.) those men of being xenophobic, she's saying there is  
4214 . an air of xenophobia. And she's right. She's not pointing the finger

4215  
4216 . David okay

4217  
4218 . Bonnie thank you

4219  
4220 . David let me to (.) to this man at the front here

4221  
4222 . The discussion's got nothing to do with xenophobia. It's about jobs, services. And we (.)  
4223 . still having large amounts of youth unemployment in this country. How is more  
4224 . immigration (.) what effect is that gunna have on that?

4225  
4226 . David the man in the chequered shirt

4227  
4228 . I agree that there is a reallyy nasty xenophobic wing with this argument. For example  
4229 . the go home vans are just (.) horrible. But (.) we have a housing crisis. Like it was on the  
4230 . news last night. Uthousands of people are living in bed and breakfasts with their families.  
4231 . like th:ousands of people are gunna come to thsi country, where they gunna stay? There's  
4232 . nowhere for them to stay. It's easy to say its xenophobic, which (.) a horrible amount of it  
4233 . i↑s, but (.) behind there is a logistical argument.

4234  
4235 . Bonnie I don't disagree with that. Please (.) don't call it xenophobic

4236  
4237 . David you there

4238  
4239 . I really feel for our young people (.) and e[rm yeah]

4240  
4241 . [((audien]ce applause)]

4242  
4243 . David Diane. A brief point

4244  
4245 . Diane yes well despite what Mark would like to convince us he (.) er the coalition are not  
4246 . controlling immigration h and if and I'm a fellow borough councillor so I empathise and  
4247 . sympathise with you (.) comple↑tely, the comme↑nt has been made that even with the  
4248 . current housing targets we would have to build one new home every seven minutes and if  
4249 . we don't control immigration, when we get tot he end of the next fifteen year programme  
4250 . the coalition has introduced, we're going to have to embark on ano↑ther huge round of  
4251 . house building. h now, we've gotta call it, we've gotta start saying enough is enough at  
4252 . some stage, and bring control back into this country as to where the infrastructure goes and  
4253 . where the housing goes, where it's allocated, and that is not happening with Mark and his  
4254 . team in government at the moment. The (.) I don't know if you've seen the same (.) er  
4255 . issues in the papers that have come out, allocating the housing out as it is (.) you couldn't  
4256 . drive a coach and horses through it, it's an absolute nonsense.

4257  
4258 . David okay I'm going to take one more point. Because the man in the centre (.) in the rhird row  
4259 . down, has had his hand up since this discussion began.

4260  
4261 . Er Peter has highlighted the concerns (.) with immigration from the new year. He's  
4262 . highlighted them quite correctly. Whereas Bonnie has talked about the wagon train (.)  
4263 . scenario. I think it's going to be worse than the wagon train scenario. And I have a major  
4264 . concern (.) about the social structure in this country, and what it's going to do to our

4265 English society. Having seen it already happen throughout Europe, in Austria, in  
 4266 Switzerland, with people coming here from the two countries mentioned, and causing  
 4267 major issues there, and I think its going to be ten times worse over here.

4268  
 4269 David all right, thank you very much for that (.) comment

---

***Question Time (7<sup>th</sup> March 2013) Dover***

4270 David The wonderful sound of a ferry just leaving the harbour as we start. Our first  
 4271 question from Danny Rose, please.

4272  
 4273 (1)

4274  
 4275 Danny Is it time we defied Europe (.) and closed our borders and say, “We’re fu:ll”

4276  
 4277 David Ti::me we closed our borders with Europe, and tell people we’re full. This is a  
 4278 week when everybody’s been piling in. Duncan Smith on the Tories, Ed Miliband  
 4279 apologising for Labour’s policy on immigration. Ken Clarke.

4280  
 4281 Ken Well, we are trying to cut down the total number of immigration, but not from  
 4282 inside Europe. We er (.) took over a situation where about two million people have  
 4283 been added to the population during the term of the previous government, but  
 4284 they’re largely coming from around the world. And we’ve already got down with  
 4285 the influx quite considerably, but we’ve got further to go, really, really not by  
 4286 excluding; we don’t want to exclude tourists, we don’t want to exclude foreigners,  
 4287 we don’t want to exclude students, certainly not skilled pe<sup>o</sup>ple, but having  
 4288 sensible rules and then applying them properly, to a level we can er afford. As far  
 4289 as Europe is concerned, what we need to do in Europe is actually press on with  
 4290 getting the full advantages economic advantages, as well as the political  
 4291 advantages, out of the single market. And really, the British are pressing, in the  
 4292 current drive for reform, to open it up fu<sup>r</sup>ther, to extend it fu<sup>r</sup>ther, to really make  
 4293 ourselves a big (.) block in world affairs. We have the biggest market in the world;  
 4294 let’s make it effective, extend it to more things, and you can’t have a single market  
 4295 without having the free movement of people. There are vast numbers of=

4296  
 4297 David =You can’t say we’re full (.) in other words.

4298  
 4299 Ken Well, there are vast numbers of British people working in Eu<sup>o</sup>p<sup>e</sup>, so if we  
 4300 suddenly said to our partne<sup>r</sup>s, “Oh, actually, we’re not letting any foreigners  
 4301 co<sup>o</sup>me here, but otherwise, we’re your close business and trading partners, of  
 4302 cours<sup>e</sup>, and we expect to have a lot of investment and trade” (.) I think they’d think  
 4303 we’d slightly taken leave of our se:n:ses, to put it mi:ldly. Th- t- there ar:e rules.  
 4304 People can come here to work. Skilled people are desirable here. The Poles who  
 4305 came here came here and did work. They claimed far less by way of benefit than  
 4306 the equivalent British people would have done, and they’re very, very well  
 4307 [regulated]

4308  
 4309 David [So you ha]ve no hesitation about saying, “Steady as we go. It’s fine.” There’s  
 4310 nothing that=



4311  
4312 Ken =As long as you apoint the rules. You ca<sup>u</sup>n't just come and get benefit. You  
4313 ca<sup>u</sup>n't just turn up because you want health service treatment. You do have to be  
4314 looking (.) for work. Frankly, it's partly because our administration has, over the  
4315 years, been pretty pathetic at enfo<sup>r</sup>cing those rules. We have perfectly good  
4316 and sensible rules. You can tighten them up a b:it. Other countries will want to.

4317 But for heaven's sake, in this time of crisis (.) and it is a crisis we're in, politically  
4318 and economically, really, in the world (.) for the British to suddenly start saying,  
4319 "There are selected foreigners who we're not going to allow to come here," or,  
4320 "We wish to trade more and more with friendly countries, but for h[eaven's sake,  
4321 no, no, no, we're closing our borders to your people," I think, we really will er (.)  
4322 take a difficult situation very much wo:rse=

4323  
4324 David [okay] =so::  
4325 thank you<sup>u</sup>. Diane James, the Tories have got it dead right, and there's nothing  
4326 more to be done.

4327  
4328 Diane er- I couldn't disagree with Ken more, and thank you for the question that came  
4329 from the audience, Danny. I mean (.) I I believe you're absolutely spot on, and so  
4330 does UKIP- in terms of we have go<sup>u</sup>t to: (.) admit that enough is enough. We've  
4331 got to close the door on the open uncontrolled immigration policy that the EU has  
4332 in pla<sup>u</sup>ce. (.) Now, Ken's made a whole series of points. I cannot see, and I'm sure  
4333 no EU country is suddenly going to say just because we introduce a policy, and  
4334 it would mean leaving the EU to be able to achieve that that they're suddenly  
4335 going to throw out all of the pensioners that settled, that bring a very, very good  
4336 income into their countries (.) the yast number of very highly skilled and  
4337 professional people that work in France and Germany. What we are concerned  
4338 about, and I'm particularly concerned about (.) and I can draw on numerous  
4339 anecdotes from last week's result, and the campaigning that led up to that (.) is  
4340 when you undermine at the lowest level, as in young people wanting their first job,  
4341 and wanting to then work through and aspire and achieve ambition, when you  
4342 undermine that, then we've got a problem, and that's what the EU policy is  
4343 allowing to happen at the moment.

4344  
4345 David So i- i:s your view that you couldn't get anywhere without leaving the EU? You  
4346 can't do any of these things until you leave the EU. Is that your point?

4347  
4348 Diane Yes, it is, very much so.

4349  
4350 David Okay. You sir, there.

4351  
4352 Q1 Yes, I understand erm (.) that the policy that is being proposed is that there will be  
4353 a n- n- necessity for someone to have one year's residency in the UK, if they were  
4354 another European national er:m, which would then entitle them to NHS services,  
4355 benefits, and so on. I wonder if the panel would like to comment on the  
4356 possibil<sup>u</sup>ity where you have a large number of people who have been working in  
4357 other European countries maybe for two or three years, maybe for fo:ur (.) or  
4358 mo:re, who are British nationalists (.) ha almost yeah British nationals (.)  
4359 retur<sup>u</sup>ning to this country because the countries they're working in are not actually  
4360 very successful at this particular time, Portugal, Spain and so on. When they come  
4361 back, are they going to be as[ked to qualify for benefits]?

4362

4363 David [Oh, right, I see. I take you]r point; whether they still [count as citizens] Okay, and the  
4364 woman here, in the second row.

4365  
4366 Q1 [Absolutely, yeah]

4367  
4368 Q2 um (.) I just wanted to come back on Ken's point about allowing skilled workers  
4369 into the country and obviously, there is a place for that, but isn't it time that we  
4370 erm (.)skilled up our own young people?

4371  
4372 David Ste[ven Twigg.]  
4373

4374 [((Audience] applause))=

4375  
4376 Steven =Let me start with that (.) because that's such an important p[oint suc]h an  
4377 important point and we've failed consistently under governments of both main  
4378 parties to get enough of our young people to have the high quality skills they need,  
4379 high quality apprenticeships. That's got to be a top priority, and if we get that  
4380 right, then we won't need as many highly skilled people from other parts of the  
4381 world.

4382  
4383 ??? [inaudible]

4384  
4385 David But will you be able to stop them coming in, is the question?

4386  
4387 Steven Well, what we have to do is have a proper policy on that, and that's why it's vital  
4388 we have this debate. To answer Danny's actual question, I don't think we need to  
4389 close the borders (.) I do:: think we need policies that are clearer and firmer than  
4390 we've had. That's why Yvette Cooper, my colleague, has spoken today about  
4391 acknowledging mistakes that Labour made when we were in government. We did  
4392 get some of this wrong, including on European migration, where other countries  
4393 delayed brining in the full rights for people to move to those countries. We, in  
4394 2004, didn't do that. We underestimated the number of people who would come.  
4395 We got that wrong. We put our hands up and acknowledge it. What we now need  
4396 is a set of policies for the fu::ture that don't close the door, but introduce fairness  
4397 into the system. One of the ways we get fairness is to have better vocational  
4398 education (.) ano↑ther is to respond to Diane's point about people being un:dercut  
4399 in terms of jobs, employers that aren't paying the minimum wage, employers that  
4400 are including accommodation costs in the minimum wage. That should not be  
4401 happening, and that is why we're having people going out and recruiting from  
4402 other parts of the world, and cutting out local workers here. There are real things  
4403 we need to address, and we can do it without closing our borders entirely, which I  
4404 think is neither realistic nor desirable.

4405  
4406 (1)

4407  
4408 David The woman in the second row from the back, there.

4409  
4410 Q3 To come to the lady's point at the front, um two things (.) firstly, I'm a secondary  
4411 school teacher, and I teach a lot of European immigrant children. And I wanna say

4412 . that actually, the majority of them are really, really hardworking students. They  
 4413 . come over, and u- (.) within a year or two, most of them are fluent in English. The  
 4414 . second thing I wanted to say was (.) that we are actually training our young people  
 4415 . with B-Techs and stuff like that, and unfortunately, the current education policy,  
 4416 . with this like (.) having to do e-ba::chs and that and humanities and whatever else,  
 4417 . and actually devaluing b-techs means that actually, we're not training a  
 4418 . proportion (.) a large proportion of our students proper↑ly, so we're not act[ually  
 4419 . helping ourselves=]

4420  
 4421 . [((audience applause)) ]

4422  
 4423 . David =Okay. What's your view on closing the shutters and saying, "We're full", the  
 4424 . question asked? What's your view of that?

4425  
 4426 . Q3 Well, actually (.) I like the ability that I could actually move to Europe if I wanted  
 4427 . to, and work=

4428  
 4429 . David =You like that=

4430  
 4431 . Q3 =I think what we have to do is actually, if we're going to have people moving  
 4432 . here, and we accept that people are moving here, we have to put th- (.) things in  
 4433 . Place (.) to ensure they can be fun:ctioning people within our society, and let them  
 4434 . actually be part of our society.

4435  
 4436 . David Okay, and you over here, on the left.

4437  
 4438 . Q4 I think the main concern on immigra:tion (.) is that people come over here and  
 4439 . they work for three months, a company will get them in. They're only contracted  
 4440 . to that three months. Once they've finished the three month contra:ct, they're  
 4441 . then out (.) there (.) and they claim benefits and that, and that company will then  
 4442 . bring in another group of people (.) to work. And then the people from the  
 4443 . previous three months, what are they doing in England? They're just claiming  
 4444 . benefits. They don't go anywhere else, and they keep getting pa=

4445  
 4446 . David =And you think there are too many people in that category, yes?

4447  
 4448 . Q4 Definitely (.) definitely=

4449  
 4450 . David =And the man in the tie on, there, and then, Melanie, I'll come to you.

4451  
 4452 . Q5 In Dover we've got a lot of (.) um youth unemployment anyway; under 25s just  
 4453 . walking round the street, doing nothing. We've already got plenty of east  
 4454 . Europeans who are doing the sa:me. Do we need any more coming in from  
 4455 . Bulgaria and Romania next year? We need t- (.) the youths that we've got in this  
 4456 . country already need to learn some skills, even if they're low-skilled, and get some  
 4457 . low skilled jobs. We haven't got enough low skilled jobs for more east Europeans  
 4458 . to come in.

4459

4460 David Melanie Phillips.

4461

4462 Melanie Well (.) in answer to the question, we can't close the border, because we belong to

4463 a club, one of whose foundational rules is open borders. And (.) you know if you

4464 don't like the rules of the club, you have to get out of the clu**u**b. And I personally

4465 think (.) that I'm very glad that at la:st, we're having this discussion, because for a

4466 long time, immigration was a tabo::o subject. But (.) th- the: proposals that the

4467 government is making or suggesting now, in a kind of panic, to (.) er prete::nd that

4468 they are dealing with this problem (.) such as new ru:les of residency: to qualify

4469 for health service or benefits (.) I don't think that's going to work. Either the EU

4470 itself is going to say, "This is against our rules" or our own courts are going to say,

4471 because of human rights, "We can't discriminate against people from abroad." I

4472 think we should come out of Europe. I've always thought that. I didn't ever think

4473 we should go in. I've been absolutely consistent in this view: (.) because I always

4474 thought this was a political project (.) above all, and whatever the economic

4475 benefits and I don't think Britain has got many economic benefits from Europe

4476 (.) I think the essence of a nation is that we should be able to govern ourselves in

4477 accordance with our own needs, one of which is to determine our own population

4478 nu↑mber and our own population's needs. We may want to bring in people from

4479 abroad. People from abroad often add greatly to the value of the nation, but it

4480 should be for us, as a sovereign nation, to decide what we need, how many people

4481 we need to come in, what kind of people. This is a proper debate for us to have. At

4482 the moment, we belong to a club which says, "Oh, no (.) you can't have that

4483 debate, because you now belong to a club where there are open borders, and where

4484 these rules are no longer yours to make." And I think this is an anti- democratic

4485 position. I think the European Union is an anti-democratic project, and I believe

4486 that Britain should reassert its democratic rights and come out.

4487

4488 ((audience applause))

4489

4490 David Bob Crowe.

4491

4492 Bob Well, I want to distinguish between the European Union and Europe. My union's

4493 policy is quite clear (.) to come ou**u**t of the European Union, and we never want to

4494 be in it, but we want to be involved in Europe (.) working with other groups of

4495 workers who we believe (.) as our friends. You see, my view, personally, is that

4496 your nationality is pure (.) an accident of birth. Where you were born is your

4497 nationality. And it weren't too long ago, 45, 50 years ago, that London Transport

4498 was going out to the West Indies, because there was a shortage of la**u**bour (.) for

4499 people working on London Underground and London Tra**u**nsport. So it's not an

4500 issue about what your nationality is. The issue, at the end of the day, is that the

4501 European Union, and not Europe (.) is anti-democratic, and the reason why they're

4502 opening the borders to allow in Bulgarians, Romanians, Polish, is irrele**u**vant.

4503 There are people in the audience tonight who are probably Irish. There's people in

4504 here whose family are Po**u**lish. The reason why they're opening up the borders for

4505 (.) is because the people that are coming to this country are e**u**cono**u**mic migrants

4506 who are co**u**ming to this country looking for wo:rk, but by virtue of the fact that

4507 they're coming to this country, they're lowering the rates and conditions for those

4508 people that are working here. And we should be absolutely clear (.) that a person

4509 who wants to come to this country - why are we saying to the likes of Chelsea and

4510 Arsenal, "Your footballers can't come and play for you, because they're

4511 immigrants?" They come here because they've got a work permit, and the simple

4512 way round it is to say, "If you want to come to this co**u**ntry, you have a work

4513 permit." You couldn't go to Austra↑lia without a work permit, you couldn't go to

4514 Cu::ba without a work permit, so why should people come to Britain without a

4515 work permit? The issue is this, at the end of the day it's about time that we didn't

4516 . wait for Cameron to be elected to get a referendum; we should have a referendum  
 4517 . now to decide if we want to be part of the European Union or not, and my view is  
 4518 . that we should come out.

4519  
 4520 . ((audience applause))

4521  
 4522 . David I didn't realise we were three to two in favour of pulling out. Ken Clarke, you  
 4523 . [better hav-] can you reply on the key point that Bob made about people come here  
 4524 . to keep wages low, and therefore undermine the (.) working conditions of people  
 4525 . who are already here?

4526  
 4527 . Ken [yeah sure] Where there are negotiated conditions on the railways, and where we  
 4528 . have a minimum wage, well, that sh- should be stooped (.)needs to be perfectly  
 4529 . within our power. Europeans don'tstop us er:: enforcing contracts and the  
 4530 . minimum wage on anybody here, what(.)eve↑r nationality. What you can't do is  
 4531 . discriminate. When I go to Europe (.) as a tourist or doing my present job, I take a  
 4532 . little health card, and I get offered hea↑lth treatment, in whatever country I'm in,  
 4533 . on the same basis as the lo↑cals. That is how it wo↑rks. If you go and wo:rk in  
 4534 . Europe, if you're a British person, you do acquire (.) if you do stay however long  
 4535 . you stay, a few years or whatever, you start acquiring rights to ben↑efits. It goes in  
 4536 . both wa↑ys. You can't turn to some country and say you're going to stop it,  
 4537 . without expec:ting them to say, "Well, we're going to sto↑p you↑r people coming  
 4538 . here." And (.) I congratulate the two ladies. Th- they took us on to training,  
 4539 . apprenticeship, motivating our young people. That is the way, together with all the  
 4540 . other things we're doing capital investment and so o↓n to give the jobs and to  
 4541 . stimulate our economy. At a time of crisis, it's too easy for parties like UKIP to  
 4542 . say, "No, we can solve youth unemployment, but you've got to stop all these  
 4543 . Bulgarians coming er here." If you start voting for that kind of protest movement,  
 4544 . you take your eye off the ball. I'd love to argue the merits of what we're doing.  
 4545 . We do have a private sector that's created a million more jobs (.) since we came to  
 4546 . power, and we've got to have more of that. We used to have thousands of  
 4547 . Bulgarians here (.) picking vegetables and fruit they come (.) each year, because  
 4548 . you can't get British people [to do it]

4549  
 4550 . Bob [And also] Ken, what have you done about the  
 4551 . manufacturing industry in this country? You've shut down coal, you've shut down  
 4552 . steel, you've shut down fishery, and there's not one kid that could leave school  
 4553 . now with a proper apprenticeship, because the disaster of your policies over the  
 4554 . last 30 years=

4555  
 4556 . =((audience applause [ ]))

4557  
 4558 . David [The man th-] there in blue, waving, not drowning.

4559  
 4560 . Q6 Yes, just to answer the question that the gentleman said at the back, the question  
 4561 . was, "Is the country full?" Now, on our current trajectory, there are going to be 75  
 4562 . million of us on this little island. There's a real debate, and frankly, the  
 4563 . immigration issue is just for populist cheap shots from UKIP. The real issue is that  
 4564 . there are far too many people in this country now. You live down here in the  
 4565 . southeast, all the roads are full, all the trains are full (.) we're crow::ded. It's the  
 4566 . issue here (.) the big issue here is that there are too many people on this little  
 4567 . island=

4568

4569 . Ken =There are too many people coming. [I quite agree. That's] what we're [tackli]ng.  
4570 . The [worst problem is we've g]ot=  
  
4571 .  
4572 . David [No, wait a moment.] [wait]  
4573 . [there are three more people]  
  
4574 .  
4575 . Q6 =We ne[ed three] more cities=  
  
4576 .  
4577 . David =Too many people (.) the birth rate is wrong, you mean?  
  
4578 .  
4579 . Q6 Well, I'm saying that the debate here should not lapse into this, frankly, populist  
4580 . cheap shot (.) politics that you get from UKIP. We need three more cities the size  
4581 . of Birmingham by [2050]. Now, that is a massive issue.  
  
4582 .  
4583 . David [right] Alright. [And the w]oman on the right here=  
  
4584 .  
4585 . Ken [That is true]  
  
4586 .  
4587 . Q7 I think everybody keeps mentioning the word 'workers' and Ken said, I think,  
4588 . that if we work in another European country: and we establish rights after a certain  
4589 . time, I wonder how those benefits compare to the benefits that people get here,  
4590 . which, within three months or so=  
  
4591 .  
4592 . David =Okay, and you (.) the man sitting on the front, here.  
  
4593 .  
4594 . Q8 My worry, when we talk about an in/out referendum, is whether or not the people  
4595 . will [get t]he information t[hat th]ey need to make the rig[ht ch]oice. The in/out  
4596 . referendum in Scotland is the same facts being twisted by both par:ties, and that's  
4597 . the worry that I have, that w- w- we'll have enough to make the right choice.  
  
4598 .  
4599 . David [okay] [right] [okay]  
  
4600 .  
4601 . Steven And there is a certain irony that when the Scots announced their referendum,  
4602 . David Cameron said, "There's n- too much time being taken. Why don't you get  
4603 . on with it?" He's now saying, "We'll have a referendum, but in four years' time."  
  
4604 .  
4605 . David Well, we may come to a bit more UKIP-ery later on. I think we'll move on.  
  
4606 .  
4607 . Steven huh UKIPery.  
  
4608 .  
4609 . David Just to say that, as you know, if you want to join in the debate tonight, there are  
4610 . two ways of doing it. You can either go on Twitter, or you can text us. Our hashtag  
4611 . for Twitter is BBCQT. We've got a panellist tonight, the tax expert and  
4612 . campaigner, Richard Murphy, who's on BBC Extra Guest, or you can text  
4613 . Comments 83981, and the red button will tell you what other people are saying.

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*Question Time (17<sup>th</sup> January 2013) Lincoln*

- 4614 Q1 Can public services cope with yet another influx of mi:grants when we open our doors to  
4615 Bulgaria and Ro↑mania this time next year?
- 4616 David This part of England has very la:rgе- has had very la:rgе influx of immigrants, to work in  
4617 agriculture primarily. Can the public services cope with yet another influx when Bulgaria  
4618 and Roma↑nia are entitled to come here next year? Nigel Farage.  
4619
- 4620 Nigel Not really, no::, and nor should they ha:ve to. I think it is completely irresponsible, wrong,  
4621 in fact damn stupid to be opening up our doors next January to 29 million people from  
4622 Romania and Bulgaria. Just bear in mind (.) that nearly 50% of the Bulgarian population  
4623 are living on or below the poverty line. This is a real poverty line. People are actually  
4624 struggling to eat. To give you some idea of how poor it i↑s, the average monthly salary in  
4625 Bulgaria is €200 a mo:nth. A pensioner gets €100 a month. It is a country I'm afraid in a  
4626 terrible state. The judiciary is not independent. The mafia basically runs (.) the economy. If  
4627 I was a Bulgarian I'd be packing my bags now wanting to come to Britain. I feel so↑r::ry  
4628 for the people in Bulgaria, but fra:nkly, as the recent census figures showed - I've been  
4629 going around saying that 3 million had come in, in the last 10 years. I was wrong.  
4630 Officially, the figure was 4 million. If you add the illegals, possibly 5 million (.) and at a  
4631 time when we have youth unemployment in Britain already running at 21%. We do not  
4632 need more oversupply [in the unskilled labour market]  
4633
- 4634 David [What should be done? The qu]estion is whether public services can  
4635 cope. You c[an't do anything to prevent the]se people coming, can you?  
4636
- 4637 Nigel [Frankly, what should be done] Frankly, David, that is why we need a  
4638 referendum very quic:kly on our membership of the European Union, [because because  
4639 we cannot control immigration policy into this country and be a member of the EU. I wish  
4640 everybody in Bulgaria and Romania we↑ll, but it's a national health service. It's not there,  
4641 frankly, for the rest of the world.  
4642
- 4643  
4644 [((audience  
4645 applause))]
- 4646  
4647 ((audience applause))
- 4648 David Grant Chaps.  
4649
- 4650 Grant Well, one thing that we have done in this case is to extend the controls so that people  
4651 couldn't come here right at the beginning and the moment that the countries joined. That  
4652 was different to what happened when many of the previous there was a group of eight  
4653 countries who joined and there was a very big movement of people. That means that this  
4654 particular releasing people able to come here now comes at the same time as they can go to  
4655 places like Belgium and France and Germany and many other countries, so it means that  
4656 they won't just necessarily come to this country on their own. We've got to think this  
4657 through. One of the things that I did when I was Housing Minister was to introduce  
4658 controls for local authorities to be able to say, "People actually need to have some local  
4659 residency before they can jump to the top of the housing queues", one example of how you  
4660

4661 . can protect some of the public services, and that's now in place, and there are others. I do  
4662 . have to say to people that take the kind of view that we shouldn't have any kind of  
4663 . movement of people at all, that's fine. We'll probably have a couple of million people who  
4664 . we'll have to call back from Spain, who are Brits, who've gone and lived in the south of  
4665 . Spain=  
  
4666 .  
4667 . Nigel =No, no, this is not the point at all  
  
4668 .  
4669 . Grant [because actually] the free movement of people of course works in both  
4670 . directions.  
  
4671 .  
4672 . ((Audience applause))  
  
4673 .  
4674 . Nigel Grant=  
  
4675 .  
4676 . David =Hang on.  
  
4677 .  
4678 . Nigel [this is not] the point at all. How many are going to come?  
  
4679 .  
4680 . David [No, alright.]  
  
4681 .  
4682 . David No, you've made your point.  
  
4683 .  
4684 . Nigel [How many are] going to come?  
  
4685 .  
4686 . David No, wait a moment. There are other people on the panel and I'd like to hear from them.  
4687 . I'll come back to you. Don't worry.  
  
4688 .  
4689 . Nigel I want to know, David, how many people are going to come? How many?  
  
4690 .  
4691 . David [That was precisely] the  
4692 . question I was going to put. Eric Pickles says that he doesn't believe the figures he's got  
4693 . yet. Does the government have any idea how many people might come?  
  
4694 .  
4695 . Grant I think one of the problems that this government is very aware of is that the official  
4696 . predictions made before Poland and all those other countries joined turned out to be wrong  
4697 . by a power of 10. Now, the difference this time is, as I said, there's a lot more countries  
4698 . who are opening up at the same time, so there are a lot more choices. People actually may  
4699 . well go to countries where there are historic connections, which may be places like  
4700 . Germany and Belgium and others. Um so er=  
  
4701 .  
4702 . David =This is what you hope, is it? This is what you hope=  
  
4703 .  
4704 . Grant =Well, we- look, this, by the way, was a negotiation that took place before we were in  
4705 . government. We are in a position where even if you went for what Nigel Farage says



4706 he wants, which is to change this, we cannot change it by this October, so we are where we  
4707 are=

4708  
4709 David =Joanna Benton's question was can the public services cope?

4710  
4711 Grant Well, look, my concern when I was in charge of one part of that, social housing, for  
4712 example, was concern that we cou<sup>l</sup>dn't cope, which is why I changed the rules there to  
4713 enforce some kind of - or ability for local authorities to say, "If you've been in the area for  
4714 long enough, that you've worked in the area and you've contributed to the area, then that's  
4715 one thing, but if you've just arrived here then you're not going to be on the top of the list  
4716 for social housing". And I think that was a positive change.

4717  
4718 David Roland Rudd.

4719  
4720 Roland Well, when we opened up our borders in '04 it's absolutely true we had about half a  
4721 million Poles who came to Britain, and they came here to wo:rk and only 0.06% actually  
4722 took benefits. I think it was a great cre:dit and it was a great thing for Britain that they  
4723 came here and we've benefited enormously from th'[m. Ah- a, when it comes to] Now  
4724 when it comes to Bulga:ria and Roma<sup>n</sup>ia, as Grant says, they've got many other countries  
4725 to go to as well as us. The European Union gives you the right to come here to work, study  
4726 or to marry. It doesn't give you the right to come here and take benefits.

4727  
4728 [((Audience applause ))]

4729  
4730 Nigel It does=

4731  
4732 Roland =No, no, it d[oesn't.] No, no, no, no, no, no, it doesn't. After three months, the government  
4733 does give them benefits. Now, I think the government [can look at that N]o, no, no, I think  
4734 the government should look at that. I think three months is not long enough, but we don't  
4735 have to wait for any direction from Brussels. We can actually do something about that  
4736 ourselves=

4737  
4738 Nigel [It does] [audience grumble]

4739  
4740 David =Hang on, you said it didn't give you the right coming her to get benefits and then you say  
4741 after three months you do have that right.

4742  
4743 Roland Yes, you have the right=

4744  
4745 David =It's not long to wait, is it?

4746  
4747 Roland No, no, it's not, which is why I think the government should look at that, and that's  
4748 something that Britain can do: I think that's absolutely right, because we saw with the  
4749 Poles when they came here, they came here to wo:rk. It's true what Nigel says that  
4750 obviously Bulgaria/Romania are a lot poorer. I don't think people should be able to get  
4751 benefits after three months, and that's something the government can look at now=

4752

4753 Nigel =Roland, if you come into Britain you can get benefits on day one if you say you're self-  
4754 employed and seeking work. On day one you can claim benefits=

4755  
4756 David =Man up there, three in, in the blue shirt with the red tie.

4757  
4758 Q2 Yes. um (.) when these people come from these European countries, are there any checks  
4759 done on their record, their criminal records maybe?

4760  
4761 David Caroline , do you want to answer that particular point?

4762  
4763 Caroline Well, I think if somebody comes to work here and they're working in an environment  
4764 where there has to be checks, they should be made. There are issues here about how  
4765 difficult it is to check those records out and there is a discussion, I understand, in Europe  
4766 about some information, about sharing information on people's criminal records so we can  
4767 deal with that. In terms of Joanne's question about public services, I think we should (.)  
4768 be mindful of pressures put on our public services because it is true that when Poland and  
4769 other countries came in (.) or the numbers that we were advised were likely to come in  
4770 were an underestimation. They were. There was or concerns in communities about  
4771 pressures on hospital services, on schools, on housing and other factors as well. It is right,  
4772 your question, that we should be mindful of this. It is different this time because of course,  
4773 as Grant said, all the other EU member states are opening up at the same time. I think  
4774 actually part of the answer is to look at some of these transitional arrangements. We  
4775 supported that we should go to the max (.) in this situation and we would support  
4776 discussions with the government about whether there should be - given the state of our  
4777 economy and other countries in the Europe- European Union, whether or not we should  
4778 look for some more flexibility about some of the=

4779  
4780 David =What, even now?=  
4781

4782 Caroline =For the future in terms of=  
4783

4784 David =Even by next year?=  
4785

4786 Nigel =Do you mean when Turkey joins? Is that what you're saying?

4787  
4788 Caroline [Well, I will] explain what I'm  
4789 saying if you give me a chance, Nigel. If there was a way that we could look at next year,  
4790 yes, I think we should. Also, I think in terms of future expansions of European Union, I  
4791 think it is worth a discussion about whether other (.) tightening up of transitional  
4792 arrangements should happen. I would say this, I think over one and a half million people  
4793 from this country work and live in other parts of the European Union, so it works both  
4794 ways in terms of flexibility of labour. The other side of it is true as well, is that a huge  
4795 number of businesses depend on our trade with the European Union Let's reform the  
4796 European Union, but if we think that Nigel's answer is just to walk away from it, that  
4797 won't solve any of these issues and will leave us isolated and losing [out] on the benefits  
4798 we get from our membership.

4799  
4800 David [okay] Okay. We may  
4801 come to that bigger argument later. The man there (.) you sir, yes, in the grey jacket.

4802  
4803 Q3 erm (.) It may not be a very popular view to take amid all this mania. But I er personally  
4804 believe that when people go out in their German cars to an Italian restaurant or a Chinese  
4805 takeaway or a Turkish kebab house, drive home, turn on their Chinese televisions and sit  
4806 down on Swedish settees and start complaining about immigration and what a bad effect  
4807 it's had on our country, shouldn't they start thinking that actually these people have come  
4808 here, they've had a good benefit and they've created a more diverse society that has  
4809 created a better Britain rather than a worse one?=  
4810  
4811 =(((Audience applaus[e]))

4812  
4813 David [Okay. Mary Beard.]

4814  
4815 Mary I'd like to answer this with a local perspective because I'm not sure that the national  
4816 politician's speech is always necessarily the best for seeing what's going on in one's own  
4817 area. I think the most impressive single document that I've read on this issue actually  
4818 comes from Boston Council and it's the Task and Finish Group report about population  
4819 change in Lincolnshire, in Boston. I think it does actually answer the question about public  
4820 services because it looks very carefully at the changes that have been happening in Boston  
4821 over the last 10 years. It does identify particular management issues with an influx of  
4822 any kind of population, but at the same time what it makes absolutely clear is that actually  
4823 we can cope with this and we can benefit from it, that it is very clear, for example, that the  
4824 European migrants have a low use of the benefit system, they have a low use of the  
4825 healthcare system. They tend to be fit young people, and they take very, very, very small  
4826 amounts of social housing. Only 1% of social housing is actually occupied by people who  
4827 are economic migrants. I think this report (.) but partly because it actually dealt directly  
4828 with local people's concerns in one particular area with particular agricultural issues, not  
4829 mass industrial issues (.) it really (.) it managed to draw the right boundary between  
4830 denying that there's any problem, but also not being totally catastrophic about it. Our  
4831 public services can cope.

4832  
4833 (Applause)

4834  
4835 David Okay. I'll take a couple more points, from the woman up there on the far left, and then I'll  
4836 come to you in the middle here and then we'll go on. Yes?

4837  
4838 Q4 I'm sorry, I really disagree. I have a business in Bosto↑n. I have family that live in Boston.

4839  
4840 David Let's just explain we're talking about Boston, which is a 65,000 town or so people, about  
4841 20 miles south of Lincoln, yes?

4842  
4843 Q4 Yes, yes. And erm (.) We've got land at Boston and we've had major issues with workers -  
4844 they've nowhere to go - camping on our land. We can't move them off because the police  
4845 aren't interested. Boston is at breaking point. All the locals can't cope anymore. The  
4846 se↑rvices, doctors' surgeries, hospitals - I have a family member that's a midwi:fe at  
4847 Boston Pilgrim Hospital. The facilities are at breaking point because of (.) these people  
4848 coming into the country, and (1) nothing is being done. There are hardly any loca↑ls there  
4849 anymore because they're all moving away. You go down to Boston high street and it's just  
4850 like you're in a foreign country. It's got (.) to stop. ((Audience applause))

4851  
4852 David Are you talking mainly about people from Poland?

4853  
4854 . Q4 Well, they're from Lithuania. They're all sorts. We've had to have signs made in five  
4855 . different languages to say, 'Private land. please no camping'. They're all from  
4856 . Poland/Lithuania. Now, I'm half-Polish, because my grandparents were Polish and came  
4857 . over during the War and fought in the (.) World War Two. We are talking now of a  
4858 . different generation of immigrants, where they're disrespectful and they're not bothered  
4859 . anymore.

4860  
4861 . David Mary , you were talking about Boston. Do you want, just briefly, to reply to that?

4862  
4863 . Mary What I got out of the report was it was really the fact that there are huge numbers of myths  
4864 . about the numbers of people who've entered Boston and also their drain on public services.  
4865 . There was a rather charming coda to this report which said actually the maternity unit at  
4866 . the Pilgrim Hospital had probably been kept open because of the increase in population of  
4867 . Boston rather than being closed=

4868  
4869 . =((Audience applause))

4870  
4871 . Nigel The chief police officer of Cambridgeshire, your home county, three years ago, she said  
4872 . that in fact what was happening was that an intolerable strain was being put on policing  
4873 . hospitals and schools in Cambridgeshire. (Applause) That's the common thing that people  
4874 . [are fi↑nding]

4875  
4876 . [((audience a]ppause))

4877  
4878 . David Okay. Do you want to briefly comment on this because you've been silent obviously. Just  
4879 . [very quickly, if you would. You talke]d about housing. What about these other issues?  
4880 . [Just briefly, please.]

4881  
4882 . Grant [Well actually, what I was going to say] Well, actually I had the leaders of er (.) Boston  
4883 . Council come to see me when I was local government minister. There certainly are a lot of  
4884 . strains there. They're very concerned that the census information doesn't represent it.  
4885 . Actually, Boston is an unusual case in that regard. They're right at the extreme end of the  
4886 . stresses on services, which are I believe very réal in Boston. I think overall, I think it's  
4887 . important to recognise with the two countries coming in, in October, that they are able to  
4888 . go to 23 other countries at the sa[me time]. That's very different from when that original  
4889 . Polish, for example, immigration occurred, where 74,000 people turned up in a time where  
4890 . only about 7,000 people.

4891  
4892 . Q4 [they don't]

4893  
4894 . David It does raise the question- she's shaking her head about whether somewhere like Boston,  
4895 . if it is as you describe, would be attractive to anybody else to move there.

4896  
4897 . Q4 It is because you've got the farming land there and you've got the far:ming where they  
4898 . employ them to pull out the cabbages and things like that. It's encouraging them to come  
4899 . to Boston. [There is no]where for them to go, so they're just laying on park benches,  
4900 . drinking. We've got a major issue (.) with er alcohol, drinking them in the day round the  
4901 . streets. Boston have actually done where they ban areas, but it's not wor::king.

4902  
4903 David [And there u-] Sorry, I don't want to stick on this, but just one point to you.  
4904 Why won't indigenous (.) Bostonians do this work, young people in Boston who are out of  
4905 work? Why won't they do the work?=  
  
4906  
4907 =((audience applause))  
  
4908  
4909 Q4 I don't know why (.) whether it's because it's cheaper to employ=  
  
4910  
4911 Nigel =I do. Yes=  
  
4912  
4913 Mary =It's exploitative labour.  
  
4914  
4915 David What are you saying, it's exploited labour?  
  
4916  
4917 Nigel For the big bosses, this is a green country where in many cases they can get these people to  
4918 work all the hours God sends for (.) (laughs) more often than not, way below the minimum  
4919 wage. For the big bosses, it's been tremendous. And David, before 2004, the cabbages and  
4920 the cauliflowers were not rotting in the fields of Lincolnshire, they were still getting  
4921 picked. The idea that without this mass influx the whole place would fall to pieces is just  
4922 nonsense.  
  
4923  
4924 (Applause)  
  
4925  
4926 David Okay. We must go on now.

---

***Question Time (13<sup>th</sup> December 2012) Bristol***

4927 Q1 With almost three million more foreign residents since 2001, is Britain no longer British?  
4928  
4929 David Three million more foreign residents, and um (.) 13% of people in Britain now born  
4930 outside the UK is Britain no longer British? Karan Bilimoria.  
4931  
4932 Karan I came to this country as a 19-year-old from India to study, and this has been a most  
4933 amazing country, that has given me the opportunity not only to study, but to start off my  
4934 business (.) to build a life over here. What I've seen is a transformation of this country,  
4935 over the last three decades, from a country with a glass ceiling, where if you were a  
4936 foreigner, you couldn't get to the top (.) you were told you will not be allowed to get to the  
4937 top to a country where I believe, now, is a true meritocracy; where there is opportunity  
4938 for all, regardless of race, religion, or background. I have seen this unfold in front of my  
4939 eyes. I think it's the most amazing country, and I think immigration, good immigration, has  
4940 been fantastic for this country, and a lot of the immigrants that have come here have done  
4941 it with nothing. This year, we're celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ugandan Asians,  
4942 who were thrown out by a brutal dictator, Idi Amin, 40 years ago. Look at what that  
4943 community has achieved over he↑re.  
4944  
4945 David But the question is is Britain no longer British? How would you answer that?  
4946

4947 . Karan Then, you talk about the fact that in London, now, less than 50% of Londoners are  
4948 . originally of ethnic origin from he↑re. That is wonderful, and I think it's the most  
4949 . cosmopolitan city in the world. If you ask me my identity, I'm really proud to be Indian (.)  
4950 . I'm really proud to be a Zoroastrian parson (.) I'm really proud to be Asian, and most of  
4951 . all, I'm really, really proud to be British [and what this country's done]  
4952 .  
4953 . [((audience applause)) ]  
4954 .  
4955 . David All right. Well, Peter , you were touching on this before, but what's your view?  
4956 .  
4957 . Peter Well, immigration on this scale is unprecedented in the history of this country. There has  
4958 . been nothing like it, and the problem with immigration on this scale is that, of course,  
4959 . immigrants can come here and become British if they're given the chance to do so (.) if the  
4960 . society which welcomes them (.) says "You're very welcome here, but what we want you  
4961 . to do is integrate and become part of our country." Far from doing that, it has been the  
4962 . policy of our governments for many years to encourage multiculturalism, and the creation  
4963 . of solitudes, in which people have nothing to do with each other, and live apart.  
4964 . There has been tha:t, and there has also been the fact that the sheer sca↑le of this means  
4965 . that there are now, I think, millions of homes (.) I'm sure factcheck.com, whoever they are,  
4966 . will tell us how many millions quickly (.) where there are no adults who speak English.  
4967 . You cannot be a society unless everybody in that society shares certain things in common.  
4968 . One of them is language; one of them is law. One of them, you might say, would be a  
4969 . sense of humour all kinds of things come together to make people what they are. We are  
4970 . considerably less British, and that's the ide↑a, because when New Labour launched this  
4971 . mass immigration policy, which they did as a deliberate act of policy – this is the account  
4972 . of a New Labour apparatchik, Andrew Neather, who actually said that the policy included  
4973 . a driving political purpose (.) that mass immigration was the way that the government was  
4974 . going to make the UK truly multicultural, and the purpose the main purpose was to rub the  
4975 . right's nose in diversity and render their arguments out of date. That has been achieved.  
4976 . That was a driving political purpose to change this country irreversibly, and out of all  
4977 . recognition. It has been achieved, and that lot did it, and now they're going for the next  
4978 . [election proposed as the fri]ends of those who are worried by it, but they aren't. They're  
4979 . fat, bourgeois bohemians who enjoy all the parts of mass immigration the cheap  
4980 . nannies and the cheap restaurants, which they so love. They don't care about anybody else  
4981 . or what happens to the rest of society.  
4982 .  
4983 . [((some audience applause))]  
4984 .  
4985 . David Stella .  
4986 .  
4987 . Stella [Easy, Peter, easy. Lis]ten, the reason I might be fa:t is because I went to 80 (.) street  
4988 . parties during the Jubilee in my community. I ate hundreds of pieces of cake. My local  
4989 . community is exactly the sort of place that Peter is talking about, that he seems a little bit  
4990 . frightened of. I'd love you to come down and meet Walthamstow. You'd get a very warm  
4991 . welcome there, because we welcome people in Walthamstow. It's what Walthamstow  
4992 . originally meant in the Domesday Book.  
4993 .  
4994 . [((audience applause))]  
4995 .  
4996 . Peter That's so kind of you=  
4997 .  
4998 . Stella =We had (.) well, Peter. This is the thing, you see. Britishness for me is [about a series of  
4999 . values]  
5000 .  
5001 . Peter [I can travel around  
5002 . my ow]n country quite freely, thanks, without being invited  
5003 .  
5004 . Stella No, no. I'm offering to welcome you to a place to come and see the kinds of things that  
5005 . we're talking about this evening, because we have a very diverse community in  
5006 . Walthamstow. Don't get me wrong; we have challenges that we have to face, but we also

5007 have a strength that comes from that diversi↓ty, because the same people who are  
5008 organising all those fantastic street parties were also out there cheering on people like Mo  
5009 Farah, who they saw as a classic example of what Britishness stands [for and that's a thing]  
5010  
5011 David [What do you mean?]  
5012 What does it stand for, for you? Because that was the question is Britain no longer British?  
5013 What does 'British' mean to you?  
5014  
5015 Stella I look at Mo Farah, and he makes me proud, because he's a man who worked really, really  
5016 [hard to rise]  
5017  
5018 David [Yes, but yo]u're taking one example. What does being British [mean to you]?  
5019  
5020 Stella [Well, because] he  
5021 embodies he embodies that sense of fair play, of hard work, of tolerance, and commitment  
5022 to each other, and that's what we sa↓w during the Olympics. That's what we deal with  
5023 every single day in Walthamstow, because people who come from many different  
5024 backgrounds share a shared concern, and Peter, you would love them, because they all get  
5025 angry as soon as you talk about having a controlled parking zone, so there are plenty of  
5026 things that people can find to find in common, wherever [they're from]  
5027  
5028 Peter [I couldn't] care less about  
5029 parking.  
5030  
5031 David All right. The person who asked the question, at the back there. Yes.  
5032  
5033 Q1 I don't think you define Britishness, because it means different things to different people. I  
5034 think immigration is a fantastic thing it enriches the fabric of this society  
5035  
5036 ((Audience applause))  
5037  
5038 David Justine Green  
5039  
5040 Justine I think we have had hu::ge, uncontrolled mass immigration over the last decade, and I  
5041 think the census really showed just how big it's been. Pretty much a city the size of  
5042 Birmingham in terms of the er (.) extra population that came in. Nevertheless, I think you  
5043 know, you look at the Olympics. I'm a London MP. The volunteers were from the whole  
5044 London. They were fantastic. That is London today, and actually, this i:s Britain today, and  
5045 I think the key to success is making the best of the people that we've got, and making most  
5046 of the fact that, yes; we are a er diverse nation. We are diverse communities. Mine  
5047 certainly is, and I think we've got to make that our asset in the future. I think that we can  
5048 have a big debate about whether Labour's policy on immigration was good or bad. I  
5049 happen to think it was bad. I think it was bad to just allow uncontrolled numbers of people  
5050 to come into the country without having a strategy for how public services would cope  
5051 with them; how housing would cope with them, but the bottom line is we are Britain today,  
5052 and I think we've got to make the best of that. I think, as the gentleman says, it means  
5053 different things to different people, but I think there are some core values there of fair play,  
5054 of creativity, of a fantastic sense of humour, of competitiveness, of being entrepreneurs. I  
5055 think we've been at our best when we've been not just strong at home, but when we've  
5056 been out the helping to shape the world around us, too. I think that's what we need to  
5057 continue doing [as a country]  
5058  
5059 Karan Sorry why, then, does your government have this immigration cap? To have a crude  
5060 instrument like a cap (.) when you just implement that, you're deterring the good  
5061 immigration the people who are coming into this country that have enriched this country,  
5062 as the gentleman there said, with an immigration cap. You're turning people away. Look at  
5063 the [way that 00725] students – with the UK Border Agency. The UK Border Agency (.) if  
5064 I challenged them, they wouldn't even be able to tell you how many illegal immigrants are  
5065 in this country rounded up to 100,000, and yet London Metropolitan University, in one  
5066 swoop, they tell the 2,500 foreign students that are there, "Go and find another place within

5067 60 days.” [Is that a fair way of dealing with people?]  
5068  
5069 Justine [There’s actually (.) well, I can maybe um] let me=.

5070  
5071 Karan =Just the message that sends out, to the rest of the world, is, “Britain doesn’t want foreign  
5072 students, and if you come to this country, you don’t know if you’re going to finish your  
5073 studies or not.” [Is that right?]  
5074

5075 Justine [Do you kno]w what? That’s absolutely not the case. There is no limit on  
5076 the numbers of students that can come to the UK, if they have English, if they’ve got the  
5077 funds for their course, and if they’re signed up to a proper degree. Really, that is simply not  
5078 [reflecting the reality]  
5079

5080 Karan [Then why do you in]clude why you include student numbers in immigration numbers?  
5081 Why do you include student numbers?=  
5082

5083 Justine =We have to have [I think it’s common sense to have some sort kind of a cap on migration]  
5084 [I think most people in Britain would recognise] the practicalities of having none.  
5085

5086 David [yeah yeah. right let’s leave that argument for a moment. Let me bring]  
5087 [in the man sitting in the- yeah right. Let me bri]ng in the man who has been sitting  
5088 patiently with his hand in the air there.  
5089

5090 Q2 Thank you ever so much. Isn’t the problem not necessarily the people we have coming into  
5091 this country, who want to be British, but more so the people that are already born in this  
5092 country who decide that, actually, they’re not British, but they’re just English? I’m very  
5093 fortunate because I have a grandmother who is Scottish, and a great-grandmother who is  
5094 Welsh, and I was born here in Bristol, so I consider myself to be fundamentally British,  
5095 except for the Irish, but we’re working on that perhaps soon ((Laughter)). But the problem  
5096 is that we have people now who fundamentally just say that they’re English [and we have]  
5097

5098 David [Who are these]  
5099 people you’re thinking of?  
5100

5101 Q2 Well, I have many friends who just say, “Oh, I’m English,” and you see in Scotland you  
5102 want Alex Salmond- Alex Hammon-? having an independent Scotland, so I think it’s not  
5103 necessarily=  
5104

5105 David =You’d like people to feel British (.) [not English, not Welsh? ]  
5106

5107 Q2 [I think Britishness is an] important thing, because –  
5108 well, you should be Welsh and British.  
5109

5110 David Oh, right. Okay. All right, and you, sir, in the front row here?  
5111

5112 Q3 I believe that the people in Britain is what makes Britain, Britain. You’ve got all these  
5113 diverse communities; well, there’s loads of them round Britain, and all coming together to  
5114 be British is what makes Britain, Britain. If you think about it, for example, my granddad is  
5115 Hungarian, and back in the day, I’m not sure how many years ago:, but he ran his own hot-  
5116 dog stand in Bristol, and he is part British. He’s like kind of putting British history in a  
5117 set of views coming from=.

5118  
5119 David =That’s, that’s well made. Will Self almost three million more foreign residents since  
5120 2001. The question is is Britain no longer British?  
5121

5122 Will Well, people have said Britain has many different meanings to different people. I think,  
5123 really, up to the Suez Crisis in 1952, [the co]re (.) s[orry], ‘56?=  
5124

5125 Peter [‘56] =I remember it  
5126



5127 David ['56]  
5128  
5129 Will Of course you do you probably were in the front line. Thank you for the on-the-sport  
5130 fact-checking, [Peter. I think, more or less], up until that point, most people's conception  
5131 of what being Brit:ish involved was basically going overseas and subjugating black and  
5132 brown people and taking their stuff (.) and the fruits of their labours. That was a core part  
5133 of British identity (.) was the British Empire. Now, various members of the political class  
5134 have tried to revive that idea quite recently without much success, so if we're talking about  
5135 what an integral conception of Britishness is, it's actually quite antithetical to the idea of a  
5136 multicultural nation. It's in favour of a multicultural empire, which is quite a different  
5137 thing. Addressing the young man there, who is concerned about our relationship with  
5138 Scotland, and Wales, and Ireland, who were often employed as the shock troops of the  
5139 British Empire to go in and appropriate this stuff (.) so, if your idea of Britain is the British  
5140 Empire, then this is no longer that, quite clearly. That's my answer to that question=  
5141  
5142 Peter [I thought you were older than me]  
5143  
5144 David =And the scale of immigration revealed by the census, [over the last 10 years]  
5145  
5146 Will [Well, I think it's a bit] like  
5147 weir:dly enough, I think it's a bit like the issue of gay marriage, in that the people who line  
5148 up on the opposition to immigration of the argument are usually racists.  
5149  
5150 Peter See, here he goes, [here he goes]  
5151  
5152 Will [No, they are] T[hey normally have an] antipathy to people particularly  
5153 with black and brown skins. [That's normally the case]  
5154  
5155 [((audience applause))]  
5156  
5157 Peter [No, the bigoted the bigo]ted=  
5158  
5159 Will =No, no. You've had your [rant], Peter=  
5160  
5161 Peter =The bigoted defamation of an opposite opinion, rather than a willingness to listen to it. Or  
5162 [pay attention to it]  
5163  
5164 Will [Yes, and they'll s]oon be invading Hitchen land.  
5165  
5166 Peter Liberal Liberal (.) Liberal bigotry is the worst of all, because it thinks it's so enlightened.  
5167  
5168 David The man up there=  
5169  
5170 Will =I'm just making [a point]  
5171  
5172 David [alright al-]  
5173  
5174 Peter You're telling an untruth while making it=  
5175  
5176 Will =it can probably be fact checked=  
5177  
5178 Peter =it's nothing to do with [racial bigotry]  
5179  
5180 David [We've been ro]und this ground, we've been round this ground I  
5181 feel. Yes, you, sir [with spectacles, th[en we'll move on].  
5182  
5183 Q4 [I think it's easy t]o complain about the level of  
5184 immigration, but I'd agree with the gentleman in the front row, that I think it's part of our  
5185 island culture, and I wonder if we'd ever have built the motorway network without the help  
5186 of the Irish, or won the Battle of Britain without the help of the Polish airmen.

***Appendix x: Romanian mover voice data (interviews) (x10)***

*Table viii: summarises interview details*

<b>Interviewee pseudonym/ code</b>	<b>Interview date/place</b>	<b>Duration (total 744 mins/12.4 hrs)</b>
Luminita, TA	25/10/2014, Heart of Campus Building (SHU)	1:06:25
Alexandru, TU	6/11/2014, Heart of Campus Building (SHU)	1:00:54
Felix, VI	21/11/2014, Heart of Campus Building (SHU)	1:15:11
Anna, DI	25/11/2014, Heart of Campus Building (SHU)	1:47:13
Marina, MA	4/12/2014, Heart of Campus Building (SHU)	1:16:52
Alina, SI	9/12/2014, Aspect Court (SHU)	1:33:05
Constanta, LI	3-3-2015, Aspect Court (SHU)	1:00:15
Andrei, CA	11-3-2015, Aspect Court (SHU)	1:30:59
Violeta, LA	12-3-2015, Aspect Court (SHU)	55:58
Gheorghe, DA	13-3-2015, Aspect Court (SHU)	1:20:28

*Transcript 1: Luminita*

- 1 Henry: okay (3) [((laughter)) ]  
2 [((noise outside))]  
3 Luminita: right on time=  
4 Henry: =right (.) so I'd just like to start by (.) if you can (.) telling me a bit about  
5 yourself (.) so your a:ge (.) where you come fr[om] (.) er what you do.  
6 Luminita: [yea] well I'm thirty one (.) I am  
7 Romanian (.) I come from Iasi which is one of the biggest city in Romania  
8 (.) it is quite a cultural (.) er (1) city (.) in that it has the first university (.)  
9 the first (.) the first this the first that (.) so yeah  
10 Henry: oka:↑y  
11 Luminita: so it's er (.) an impor:tant city in Roma:nian terms so yeah. (1) ER:m (.) I  
12 lived there f- until I left for Liverpool (.) my parents have lived in Germany  
13 though some time (.) used to spend my er (.) summers there  
14 Henry: okay so you were living with ano:ther relative in Romania the↓n?  
15 Luminita: er I was living with- well they haven't left when we were very young (.) so  
16 we were still (.) er- I mean when they moved to Germany (.) er we were big  
17 enough to (.) take care of ourselves. [so we] did not have to live with other  
18 relatives in that sense.  
19 Henry: [mhm] ri↑ght (.) so it was just you and your  
20 siblings for a [while] then  
Luminita: [ye:ah]  
21 Henry: yeah  
22 Luminita: I have a sister (.) an older sister and a younger brother (.) yeah  
23 Henry: and the do- I can remember you saying before you had (.) dogs before  
24 Luminita: YE:a:h (.) we had erm (.) a giant schnauzer  
25 Henry: mmm  
26 Luminita: he was a cat actually (.) looked like a ve[ry big dog (.) [((laughter))  
27 it] was a cat trapped in a very big dog's body  
Henry: [((laughter)) ]  
28 Luminita: yeah  
29 Henry: so: erm (.) would you describe yourself as religious [erm]  
30 Luminita: [no:] not at all  
31 Henry: were yo:u (.) christened or anything as a baby

32 Luminita: I was erm (.) yes (.) erm as a catholic (.) I [mean] my mother erm in  
33 Romania over ninety percent of the population I think or ninety five are  
34 orthod↑o chris[tian] orthodox. erm my father came from er a catholic  
35 family and they got married er my mother sort of=

36 Henry: [mhm] =mm

37 Luminita: erm but they were never religious as such (.) and um (.) ALTHOUGH WE  
38 did go to church as children you know the first communion and all [that]  
39 but after that no (.) now I consider myself an ath[eist] (1.5) so no (.) I've  
40 never been (into religion)

41 Henry: [mm]  
42 [mm]o::kay (.) ER:m what do you at  
43 the moment

44 Luminita: erm I'm a (postgraduate student) at the moment (.) ((details removed)) In  
45 my first year (.) still=

46 Henry: =and you were at Liverpool before that?

47 Luminita: YE:ah (.) so urr a- I've stud:ied psych[ology] (.) initially in Romania (.)  
48 that's how I started my (.) undergraduate (.) and I was er a bit disappointed  
49 with psychology er department (.) er th:en they did not have enough access  
50 to (.) modules that explained more (.) the physical side of things. so (.) I  
51 decided to study biology as well (.) so I studied psych↑ology and biology  
52 separate(,)ly (.) but at the same time for two years. (.) and e:rm (.) after that  
53 I looked for a master's that `had to do with er:m (.) that sort of combined  
54 them. So I found this master's at the university of Liverpool (.) that was in  
55 evolutionary psychology but in the biological sciences department which  
56 was (.) like (.) great (.) it was really good. and erm (.) after I graduated I  
57 waited a year and then went to Liverpool to do that. I mean I was very  
58 focused I knew from my s::econd year of psychology that was where I'm  
59 going uh=

60 Henry: [mhm] =you knew that was where you  
61 wanted to be?

62 Luminita: yeah. and I feel like sort of the same now ((details removed)) I feel like I  
63 already know where I'm going ((details removed)) but let's all hope it's  
64 going well yeah

65 Henry: so you've felt then (.) since moving to the UK (.) you've had an idea of  
66 where you want to go as times gone on it's b- become more clear to you?

67 Luminita: ER:M not necessarily erm (.) the (.) when it comes to the science that I'm  
68 doing now (.) I'm not necessarily in the direction that I would have thought  
69 about two years ago (.) because now it's ((details removed)) sort of more (.)  
70 because I had the opportunity to wo:rk last summer ((details removed)) that  
71 I got more int[o it] (.) I was always interested but didn't have much  
72 experience. So after that I was like 'okay I can do this' (.) that's how I  
73 (came)

74 Henry: [mm] so: when you first came (.) did you have to deal  
75 with visa's (.) un work permits and that sort of thing

76 Luminita: no. no

77 Henry: you just came as a student ss: was it all taken care of?

78 Luminita: as Romanian (.) that was in 2010. when I started my master's at Liverpool <  
79 it was the first time I came > to the UK (.) s-=

80 Henry: =mm

81 Luminita: so (.) we didn't need a visa to come. Bu::t you did need a work permit if you  
82 wanted to work (.) and I was back then with my husband (.) I was married  
83 [[[laughter]]) we both moved to Liverpool for mine (.) and we had to deal  
84 with the fact that he needed a work permit. so yeah=

85 Henry: [ri:ght ] =so there was a bit of juggling (.) to be had

86 Luminita: er it wasn't much (.) because it was quite straightforwa:rd. You just had to  
87 make this applica:tion (.) where you ju- a medical certificate (1) my er a  
88 letter from the university confirming that I was doing a master's then (1)=

89 Henry: =it was sorted

90 Luminita: yeah it wasn't very trouble[some] but it was a long wait though. I mean the  
91 waiting times were a bit=

92 Henry: [yeah]

93 =was that with the home office? (.) that dealt with that

94 Luminita: er (.) I think so.

95 Henry: it might have been something different then

96 Luminita: I don't remember exactly who it was I think it was the home office. But (.)  
97 the actual procedure was si:mple (.) the waiting times were (.) yeah

98 Henry: so it was a happy day then when y- you got it through and it was all cleared  
99 and=

100 Luminita: =y[eah]

101 Henry: [do] you remember it at all?

102 Luminita: er:m (.) na it wasn't (.) it wasn't like a surprise or anything (1) I thought like  
103 fina:lly: yeah: (.) I think it was a very erm (.) I don't think I can remember  
104 much about it because it was a very bu::sy (.) er busy time like (.) in my life  
105 and there many other things going on so that was not really my main focus.

106 Henry: so re:ally when you look back at that time (.) that sort of thing was buried  
107 under more salient things=

108 Luminita: ye:ah (.) yeah

109 Henry: (.) okay (.) so (.) you mentioned UK for the f- first time in 20[10 (.) fo]r  
 110 your master's (.) erm .t could you describe the process that led to your  
 111 decision to come here. so was it looking at courses (.) were you looking at  
 112 the UK specifically (.) or=

113 Luminita: [yeah] I don't  
 114 think I wanted to come to the UK specifically (.) I mean it was me and my  
 115 fr:iend as I said I think we were in Lithuania when w- we when I made the  
 116 decision of coming to Liverpool. and that was like two or three and that was  
 117 like two or three years before I actually came. two years (.) three e:rm  
 118 because I was looking at the evolutionary master's first of all (.)

119 Henry: mm

120 Luminita: a:nd it had to be a good university. and university of Liverpool has a high  
 121 reputation (.) academically. and it was a very good department (.) like the  
 122 people were working there (.) it's just factors that lead to my decision. er (.)  
 123 one of them was (name) (.) who is now a head of ((details removed)) at  
 124 ((details removed)) now and other people there and the other people who  
 125 have worked there I mean like made some really er (.) big contributions to  
 126 the area and they had this behavioural ecology approach to it - not  
 127 evolutionary psychology an american one where it's a bit 1`more (.) let's  
 128 say scientific so to [speak] so that was definitely want- because it's a good  
 129 department (.) but also because of the language. I mean I wouldn't have  
 130 went to a country where I can't really (.) understand they're teaching me in.  
 131 (.) so I also speak Italian but that wasn't really an option because I didn't  
 132 consider Italy to be (.) doing well enough academically. and erm (.) (1)  
 133 yeah I s'pose I could have like my friend and she went to Frankfurt then (.)  
 134 and they were teaching master's in (.) English but erm (.) I dunno (.) I  
 135 would have considered a different country if they would have teach- taught  
 136 in English (.) and also (.) if the department the university was high enough  
 137 (.) sort of=

138 Henry: [mmm]  
 139 =so status was really impor[tant to you] you wanted to know that your  
 140 education was in good hands=

141 Luminita: [it was (.) yeah]  
 142 =yeah (.) yeah (.) yeah like if I'm going to move I might as well move to  
 143 somewhere I have something to learn.

144 Henry: mm. that's really interesting. erm so when you applied for the master's  
 145 deg[ree] (.) I presume it was like i- like the normal application you put in.  
 146 [they] assess if its conditional and erm=

147 Luminita: [yeah] [yeah]  
 148 =yeah that's how it was. I had to send (.) my er undergraduate degrees (.)  
 149 and where they see all your erm marks before that and references and er  
 150 language certificate.

151 Henry: so was tha:t (.) rather than the letter from the home office (.) was that  
 152 particular thing you got from the uni to say (.) accept you [onto the course  
 153 memorable] for you=

154 Luminita: [yeah I was  
 155 happy] =ye:ah but at that point I'd figured out I'd been before that. I d:o  
 156 tend to some predictions about outcomes and things yeah. but I still like not  
 157 su:re one hundred percent (.) because I could still (.) I mean I had this  
 158 double specialisation which was quite e[xotic] and references so=

159 Henry: [mm] =so you had reason to be  
 160 confident?

161 Luminita: yah yeah.

162 Henry: so what were your thoughts then when you got the offer? did you start sort  
 163 of er (.) planning=

164 Luminita: =ye:ah (.) I started planning before that (.) I'm very pres:umptuous lik[e this  
 165 [((laughter))] because (.) I think they gave me the answer sometim::e in erm  
 166 (1) A↑pril or May I don't really reme[mber]. (1) but er I: sort had to figure  
 167 out where I'm going to li::ve (.) er I was working at that point cos in  
 168 between my other studies and before I went to Liverpool I was workin((.))g  
 169 a:nd er you know (.) to plan the > working and moving < and er (.) having  
 170 to spend the summer in Germany with my parents before I came to UK and  
 171 so on so had to all that- I started planning before all that h-((.)) [ye::ah] it  
 172 was er=

173 Henry: [((laughter)) ]  
 174 [mmhm]

175 [mmmm] =and what were er your thoughts then about (.) a- erm (.)  
 176 obviously you were going to Liverpool but did you have more general  
 177 thoughts about the UK- about what the UK would be like?=  
 178 Luminita: =ye:↑ah I had like (.) I didn't visit it [before] strangely enough but I had  
 179 visited many other countries before that (.) just never been to the UK↑ so  
 180 that was like (.) the day I came I just [moved here]

181 Henry: [mmmm]  
 182 [((laughter))] straight away=

183 Luminita: =straight away yeah. YE:Ah I had an idea I think (.) I'm not sure how  
 184 accurate it is (.) if I look back now. It's not that inaccurate (.) it's just that (.)  
 185 erm=

186 Henry: =what sort of things we↓re you thinking like I dunno whethe- did your  
 187 friends would any of your friends and family say anything about what the  
 188 food was li:ke (.) or what the people were li:ke or

189 Luminita: we:ll (.) the food is (.) shi:t [((laughter)) I just have that on re]cord so I did  
 190 expect tha:t (.) so I was aware about this thing- I was aware also about er  
 191 No:rth (.) South (.) sort of (.) er different er cultural er (.) [vibes] and er:m  
 192 (.) I did (.) try to learn for myself about Liverpool a bit more (.) you know

193 (the city) (.) if I'm going to live there I MEAN (.) if there's still things that  
 194 surpri<sup>↑</sup>sed me but er (.) my expectations were very different than what I  
 195 found but (.) there were things that surprised me er when I came.

196 Henry: [((laughter)) ]  
 197 [yeah] can you think of  
 198 any examples?

199 Luminita: I thINK er: the people in Liverpool specifically I still (.) have to warm up -  
 200 (warn) into Sheffield. could be very er: (1) laid back (.) I li[ked that.] then  
 201 then I didn't [like it so much]

202 Henry: [hmmmm]  
 203 [((laughter)) ] when you want to get things done?

204 Luminita: well at- even at the university they were very laid back. I suppose back in  
 205 Romania it's erm (.) it's much more official even the talks you have with  
 206 your lecturers or whatever. there's a very specific thing I remember. The  
 207 fa::ct that I would speak with my supervisor or whatever just using their (.)  
 208 first name (.) that i:s: (.) we don't do that you know just use the titles (.) it  
 209 was a bit uncomfortable you know 'oh oka::y (.) that's weird (.) this person  
 210 is seventy and er very er high up'=

211 Henry: =sort of like 'hi Bob' rather than 'hi professor'?=

212 Luminita: yeah [exac]tly (.) so

213 Henry: [yeah]  
 214 (2)

215 Henry: so (.) upon arriving (.) (.) can you remember anything particular when you  
 216 got off the plane? For example looking for accommodation (.) can you  
 217 remember any of that?

218 Luminita: I had the accommodation already sorted by the time [I c↓ome] (.) f:or  
 219 convenience I chose to (.) a friend from the universi<sup>↑</sup>ty (.) self-contained  
 220 (.) it was a fla:t (.) a small one (.) but I didn't want to:: (.) it was a university  
 221 accommodation but I didn't share with other students. I mean I was with my  
 222 husband as well (and we would really [want the space?])

223 Henry: [yea:h ]  
 224 [did it just have] the bathroom that was  
 225 separate (.) the rest of it was just o[ne big room]

226 Luminita: [no a bath]room (.) ki:tchen (.) the  
 227 whole thing. all separate yeah (1) a::rr so we were [already]:: erm (.) sorted  
 228 that before (.) we cam[e (.) so] but I do remember specifically whe:n we  
 229 came when out of Liverpool (.) erm (.) because it was er (.) I think it was  
 230 Friday evening for something like thi:s (.) and it was quite late around nine  
 231 (.) and erm (1) we were i<sup>↑</sup>n town and er town c[entre<sup>↑</sup>] a:nd just looking  
 232 around. and it didn't look very pretty. tha- er if I am to be honest the first er  
 233 (.) shock I came into here I thought it looked rather dirty (.) and er (.) I  
 234 dunno. er that was my impression (what it looked like) I dunno. The



235 buildings were a bit sa:d (.) thu- mm er streets dirty (.) and so on (.) er BUT  
 236 Then again I've stayed in before I came in for three months in Germany in  
 237 a very nice tow:n (.) you know like a smalle[r town] everything is: sparkly  
 238 clean. and er (.) 'yeah okay this is a bit weird'. (.) it di<sup>↑</sup>dn't look very  
 239 [pretty] (1) that was definitely a shock. a:nd (.) then (.) that were there  
 240 weren't that many people in town and there these women er (.) dolled up  
 241 you know with dresses and big hair and thinking (.) oh it was Saturday  
 242 evening cos I was hinking 'hmm they must be do- they must do the  
 243 weddings here on Saturday's as well [cos there must be many weddings  
 244 around] why are people so er dressed up? You know? So women (.) yeah I  
 245 specifically remember I just went and sle:pt I didn't really like the  
 246 university accomodation I thought it was err rather um I dunno (.) da:ted?  
 247 (1) I mean er it wasn't cheap compared to th- what you could rent in the  
 248 t[own] so I thought er that's a bit er (.) below expectations. But then I find  
 249 that generally you're re::nting in this country it's a bit below Expectations  
 250 and that like er: but er the next day I just went to the city centr:e (.) there  
 251 was- there is this street in Liverpool called B- er B Bo- Bond street (.) Bond  
 252 str- Bond ((inaudible)) er Bond street and I dunno it just felt so er ali<sup>↑</sup>ve in  
 253 the city un (.) I just loved (.) them. On that walk you know towards city  
 254 centre I don't know there was something about (.) seemed genuine (.) sort  
 255 of. So yeah (.) I liked it there. The day before I [hated it] and the fact that it  
 256 looked a bit quirky (.) you know I liked that too.

257 Henry: [yeah ]  
 258 [mmm]  
 259  
 260 [mmmm]  
 261 [mmmm]  
 262 [mm]  
 263 [((laughter)) ]  
 264 [mm]  
 265 [yeah ha]

266 awr (1) erm (2) so what about when you went to the university for the first  
 267 time did you find – wa- was it things li:ke the names calling your superiors  
 268 by their first names was it tho:se sorts of things what stick out at you when  
 269 you first arrived at the uni and (.) started your course?

270 Luminita: hm:: there was an introductory event anyway old master's students anyway  
 271 and got to meet each other there were only three of us in evolutionary  
 272 psychology. But er (.) (1) or four mayb- but there were only total like thirty  
 273 or so master's students in that Department (.) for that year (.) and er<sup>↑</sup>m no  
 274 it was quite relaxed (.) it was all right (.) I didn't fee=

275 Henry: Did you find that Liverpoo- Liverpudlian even vibe of calm and laid back  
 276 that was=

277 Luminita: Well at the university the weren't that many Liverpudlians you know (.) the  
 278 average scouzer I suppose (.) yeah. But er:m (.) they were actually one of  
 279 my supervisors was from- like born in and bred there (.) and um (.) ye:ah

280 they were (.) relaxed (.) it was a good atmosphere- relaxed but ther[e was]  
 281 but still very serious about work (.) not er (.) just not (.) I don't know (.)  
 282 pompous. Just the right level (.) yeah. So it was er people that don't really  
 283 know what they're talking about so they relaxed enough about talking about  
 284 i↑t (.) (.) I find it with me er (.) if I'm a bit insecure you tend to overdo it  
 285 you know (.) like I need t[o pr:ove (.) er w]hat I'm doing. They didn't feel  
 286 the need to prove themselves much in that sense I like that (.) y- (.)

287 Henry: [yeah]  
 288 [((laughter)) ]

289 So in that sense then sort of- you're describing your impressions of the city:  
 290 and um (.) and sort of what things you kne:w (.)about t- the UK before you  
 291 ca:me (.) have y- are you fi:nding (.) did you find when you first came I  
 292 don't know: (.) erm (.) instances where you can tell you're in a different  
 293 place to where you grew up?

294 Luminita: Oh yeah definitely=  
 295 Henry: =whether it be English or British or whatever

296 Luminita: actually one of my best friends I think is er one of the smartest people I  
 297 know (.) er (.) a month or something after I arrived th↑ere (.) er I  
 298 specifically really remember s((.))aying I thought (.) this Brits (.)uh (.)  
 299 they're not even Britis((laughter)) enough

300 ((both laugh))

301 Luminita: so we were saying 'they don't even know how to be British' (.) so that was  
 302 fu:nny you know (.) us er sort of erm having this idea of what 'Britishness'  
 303 is supposed to be (.) and you know it's not (.) so yeah

304 Henry: what w- would you understand it to be?

305 Luminita: I don't know (.) just I suppose (1) maybe the laid backness (.) you know. I-  
 306 I prefer two types of context (.) social context. One where its very laid back  
 307 (.) or where everyone's very official (.) I don't (.) deal well with in-  
 308 between. When everybody's [sort of] (.) stuck up. Yeah (.) I expected the  
 309 environment I was going in to be more erm (1) formal. (.) and they weren't  
 310 that formal (.) and I think in that sense I was a bit disa[ppoin((.))te]d (.) you  
 311 know] I was expecting everyone to be formal. (.) yeah. (.) I suppose that  
 312 was what I meant when I was talking to my friend=

313 Henry: [mmhm]  
 314 [((laughter)) ]

315 =that they weren't being formal enough?

316 Luminita: yeah and they're not being British enough and he replied with something  
 317 like 'well you show those Brits what it means to be British'. ((laughter))=

318 Henry: =and you feel that you do that we↑ll (.) in a way?

319 Luminita: erm (.) no (.) no no. (0.3) I don't think so.

320 (1)

321 Henry: is it something tha- that you would think about aspiring towards (.) b- being  
 322 here (.) that you would feel like (.) 'I sh- should appear British' (.) or is it  
 323 som[ethin]g you would rather =

324 Luminita: [no::] =no you see that's a bit weird I thought about it (.) I don't think I  
 325 ever had erm (.) oh (1) I don't know it's difficult to say (0.3) I don't think  
 326 it's something I aspire to (.) especially after living in Liverp<sup>↑</sup>ool  
 327 [[[laughter]]] (.) (.) but erm (.) no I don't think it was something I aspired  
 328 towards. (.) I mean I didn't think I needed to be more British or whatever.  
 329 (1) but maybe I had this expectation that British people would be more like  
 330 me. (.) rather than me be mo[re British]. I was like 'hmm they're not  
 331 necessarily so' yeah. (1) ye:ah. No I didn't think I felt this need to be more

332 Henry: [((laughter)) ]

333 [mhmm] You felt then that since you've  
 334 arrived (.) you've simply been yourself [and that's] worked for you

335 Luminita: [I think so] I think so (.) yes. Even being  
 336 a bit er (.) maybe too much er (.) oblivious that I am not here (.) you know?  
 337 I dunno. But maybe the fact that I did travel before (.) I did spend my  
 338 summers with my parents in different countries (.) making me feel  
 339 comfortable about different places (.) it wasn't such a cultural shock you  
 340 know.

341 Henry: I suppose then also you- you've it seems that it's come across that you've  
 342 not had any experiences where someone has (.) pointed you out (0.3) as  
 343 be[ing dif]ferent (.) because you feel so laid back=

344 Luminita: [no no] =maybe I wasn't awa<sup>↓</sup>re of it you know if it happened (.)  
 345 because I was speaking with my boyfriend at some point about this (.) and  
 346 maybe there i<sup>↑</sup>s something but maybe I'm just completely obli<sup>↑</sup>vious with  
 347 it (.) but I think that works for me. Because I never really actually think (.)  
 348 I- I- I mean (.) I often thought about that because I have a cousin who lives  
 349 in Londo<sup>↓</sup>n and she lives there with her hu:sband and with her two children  
 350 (.) and erm we're not very close but we did speak at some point and she  
 351 always referred to English people as like 'they' (.) you know. And I found  
 352 that very we<sup>↑</sup>ird I what do you mean by 'they'? you know like there's  
 353 'they' and there's 'u:s' or something. See you're (.) already excluding  
 354 yourself in that sense. And I- I always disliked the fact that when people go  
 355 and live in other countries (.) when they go (.) towards the environment that  
 356 they come from I mean why do they make the move anyway? You [know].

357 Henry: [mhm]

358 Luminita: and I feel like may:be there's thing where people live in communities in  
 359 which you know (.) like for instance in London my cousin she has (.) more  
 360 Romanian friends or whatever and she tends to spend more time (.) not that  
 361 there's anything wrong [with it] (.) it's just that I didn't have this sort of (.)  
 362 option in Liverpool anyway so I (.) and also I think it's something that my  
 363 mother always used to point out (.) you know (.) the fact that you should

364 just integrate in where you're going (.) not necessarily making an effort (.)  
 365 but stop being so aware that you're not from there. If you're there (.) you  
 366 might as well be [from] there so yeah.

367 Henry: [mhmm]  
 368 [hm] so I suppose it's a bit like (.) erm (.) whether it's something  
 369 that's er (.) become apparent as you've lived here (.) but this notion of how:  
 370 er English people go to Benidorm (.) in [Spain] and basically turned  
 371 Benidorm (.) [INTO] another English city

372 Luminita: [yeah]  
 373 [yeah] I have talked to my boyfriend about this (.) 'you're just going to  
 374 England anyway'

375 Henry: I think that's a trait that (.) English people are perpetuated in quite a few  
 376 places you know Ibiza (.) the Canary- you know everywhere.

377 Luminita: you see I didn't feel like a stranger I- er it just felt (.) it felt homely it didn't  
 378 feel like (.) I ne- er (.) I don't know what it was. Er maybe the fact also that  
 379 I was quite confident with my- er not quite confident (.) but I was happy  
 380 with my level of er English so then I could er communicate with people  
 381 without feeling like er you know=

382 Henry: =feeling conscious of [not being understood]

383 Luminita: [yeah] And erm (.) well (.) that if you don't count my  
 384 experience with the proper scouzers you know cos then I was very  
 385 conscious I'm not from there! (.) then err: (.) yeah. But (.) I dunno. I never  
 386 felt like you know er (.) I mean obviously I was aware that I'm foreign (.)  
 387 but I never felt like I was being (.) I don't know (.) the odd one out or  
 388 something (.) no. But I think I was the only foreigner in that thirty (.) er  
 389 peopl- group. (1) masters students. I think they were all British yeah (.)

390 Henry: okay erm (.) yeah. S- so in in light what you were saying about your mum  
 391 saying about integration (.) is integration that you think is (.) is something  
 392 y- you value when it comes to moving around?

393 Luminita: e:: (.) I'm not sure about valuing (.) but I think (.) well I don't know what  
 394 you mean about valuing but I do value it (.) in that I find it necess[ary] (.) if  
 395 (.) yeah I find it is necessary. So yeah not only for the person (.) the  
 396 individual (.) but also for society. I::n that (.) I do tend to criticise UK for  
 397 that. Cos I feel like e:: the con- continental Europe or at least the bigger  
 398 countries in Europe like Germany or France or whatever but my experience  
 399 of Germany anyway is that they focus more on the integration whereas here  
 400 there is more focus er (.) not the integration er (.) I think there is a good  
 401 word for it (.) er a policy in England and it's not integration it's erm (2)  
 402 LI:ke sort of erm (.) multiculturalism that's what it is. Yeah. Which is a  
 403 good thing (.) but not if it excludes integration so yeah.

404 Henry: [hm] So (.) whe-  
 405 what would say your understanding of integration to mean in term- when  
 406 you say it (.) what do you mean by that?

407 Luminita: I don't mean that the individual (.) arrived in the country (.) should  
 408 completely er you know (.) dissolve himself er (.) or completely dissolve  
 409 themselves in that culture. Just (.) not being aware of who they are or where  
 410 they come from that's not it. But I do feel for them to be functional (.) they  
 411 should at least understand the culture and actually work within that cultural  
 412 framework. That's er (.) to be able to function in the cultural framework  
 413 that you live in (.) I think (.) that would be er my definition of integration.  
 414 Cos you don't even have to li↑ke it (.) but are you able to function in [that]  
 415 (.) so yeah.

416 Henry: [mm] so  
 417 how do you feel then if you- I mean I don't know if you read newspapers or  
 418 watch the [news] (.) or whatever. How do you feel then when the sort of  
 419 implicit accusations that people that move here don't integrate (.) do you  
 420 feel quite (.) does that incense you (.) yourself because of how act. Do you  
 421 feel like it misrepresents you?

422 Luminita: [yeah] Well I've always felt misrepresented (.) but that is  
 423 probably another thing in my stay((.))ing here (.) back at home I felt  
 424 misrepresented in many ways (.) so it wasn't such a (.) NEw problem for  
 425 me you know. Like for instance most of the population of Romania is  
 426 religious you know I never felt like I be[long in] that sense. So no (.) I  
 427 think to so↑me extent I think that is true. If I look around as a foreigner  
 428 coming into this country (.) I feel that (.) there are many communities (.)  
 429 living separately. I don't feel like they're living together. I feel they like  
 430 they're living separately. And even if you go around here I was looking you  
 431 see at the tables (.) the Asians with the Asians (.) the blacks with the blacks  
 432 (.) the whites with the whites. I mean (.) you could sa:y tha- take an  
 433 optimistic point of view or er (.) political correct or a [BRitish point] of  
 434 view (.) lo:ok at the cultural diversity of this room. But then if you look at it  
 435 this point of view it's a bit sa↑d. You know

436 Henry: [yeah]  
 437 [((laughter))] because they're not  
 438 interacting?

439 Luminita: they are intera:cting (.) but if you look there are these sorts of gr[oups] (1)  
 440 so I feel in that it is failing (.) yo[u know] (.) the multiculturalism part.  
 441 Whereas as I said in continental Europe more like 'let's sit together (.) let's  
 442 make a more mixed group'.

443 Henry: [mm]  
 444 [m yeah] so would you say that (.) the way the  
 445 British do it is more like half-baked? course they've got all the diversity (.)  
 446 but they're not actually doing anything with that diversity.

447 Luminita: sort of. (.) yeah (.) ye↑ah that's pretty much the same thing yeah.  
 448 (1.5)

449 Henry: so (1) with that in mind then (.) I mean it comes across anyway with what  
 450 you've said before that you've moved around quite a lot.

451 Luminita: hmm.

452 Henry: would you say that migration is something (.) essential in- in your life (.)  
 453 has it been essential would you say it is essential part to allow you to be  
 454 what you want it to be?

455 Luminita: I think so (.) yes. Because I'm a bit restless you know? (.) erm (.) I don't  
 456 know. It is (.) it feels important that I can go wherever I want whenever I  
 457 [want]. Even if I don't want to go (.) the idea that I ca<sup>n</sup> go (.) it's  
 458 extremely important yeah. That sort of freedom of movement and er  
 459 moving around. S- so yeah (.) it is.

460 Henry: [hmm] so it must have been er (.) quite a proud thing for you (.) growing up  
 461 I- I don't know if you've had that feeling for a long time growing up (.)  
 462 when Romania and Bulgaria were accepted into the UK- I mean EU (.) [cos  
 463 it meant you] could move around didn't it.

464 Luminita: [er I don't  
 465 know] cos I could move around before that. Cos the policy is such that (.)er  
 466 you don't have to be a European Union state to be able to go around. You  
 467 were able to just (.) live for as long as you wanted in those countries (.)  
 468 [there were still ways before that]. It was that you couldn't work and you  
 469 couldn't stay indefinitely (.) or something of the sort. Y- you were supposed  
 470 to go ba:ck to Romania and enter the country back. But I don't think that  
 471 was a pro:blem though. The first time I went to Germany and you had to go  
 472 the vi<sup>↑</sup>sa: (.) to get visa from the embassy: (.) in Bucharest so it was quite  
 473 troublesome. But erm it was possible (.) erm (.) I never thought this was  
 474 going to (1) I don't know (.) impede me? From anything? Cos there was a  
 475 way around it

476 Henry: [was it just that you couldn't work?] I suppose that (.) that it  
 477 has enabled is that you don't have to wait anymore (.) at least. You can just  
 478 get up and go (.) almost.

479 Luminita: I don't know I was very young when we were already able to move around  
 480 Europe. Not to li:ve there (.) but to travel. I never felt like I couldn't (.) you  
 481 see. Maybe in that sense it didn't=

482 Henry: =it didn't feel like you'd gained any[thing] it was simply rubbe[rstam]ping

483 Luminita: [yeah] [yeah]

484 Henry: would you describe yourself as European if someone asked you?

485 Luminita: definitely (.) yeah

486 Henry: and what does being European mean to you?

487 Luminita: E:RR hmm (.) ha hu [((laughter)) ] yea:h=

488 Henry: [it's a difficult question I know]  
 =feel free to explore it (.) if you need ti:me

489 Luminita: s- cos I often think I would never live anywhere else but Europe. I mean it's  
490 good for travelling. For instance I went into United States and I didn't like  
491 it. I just didn't like it (.) I spent like three months there it's enough to make  
492 an impression [I sup]pose. I felt (.) I do<sup>n</sup>'t kno<sup>w</sup> what it means to be  
493 European. What I like about Europe (.) I can tell you I don't know if it's  
494 [the same as wh:a it m]eans to be European (.) I like that there is erm (1) a  
495 degree of freedom and civil rights that you can enjoy. And they are (.)  
496 pioneers in that (.) as well. Erm that you cannot really see in other parts of  
497 the world (.) and at the same time they are keeping it re<sup>al</sup> (.) compared to  
498 the Americans (.) if that makes any se:nse. (.) so (.) yeah I dunno there's  
499 also to me it's the old continent (.) they always think that my biggest  
500 nightmare would be to live in a place like Brazi:l (.) or maybe Australia (.)  
501 life would be better but Brazil definitely would be my biggest nightmare  
502 because they (.) well first of all I don't like them if they're very warm all  
503 the time. (.) I don't like them if they're very crowded (.) and I don't like  
504 that there's always like erm (.) this erm (1.5) buzz about them. Like people  
505 are a bit hungry (.) if that makes an[y sense]. Fo- for whatever. in those  
506 places it's new (.) compared to Europe (.) [you kn]ow=

507 Henry: [mm] [no no go  
508 ahead yeah]  
509 [mhmm]  
510 [yeah] =so I suppose it's=

511 Luminita: =people go (.) to get something (.) if they move there (.) you know (.)  
512 whereas here (.) they might just be here. You know=

513 Henry: =it's like developing economies (.) [type thing] and all things going on (.)  
514 projects and Olympics like in Brazil going on. It feels too [busy for you].

515 Luminita: [yes exactly]  
516 [yeah I dunno] yeah like  
517 people want too much (.) sort of=

518 Henry: =yeah

519 Luminita: when people move (.) but hungry I don't mean hungry li:ke physically (.)  
520 erm (.) be that for affirmation (.) or success or money or whatever. It's just  
521 a bit (.) crowded. I just like things erm a bit more (.) settled.

522 Henry: do you not feel like the UK is crowded?

523 Luminita: it is (.) it is. I look at it and it is crowded.

524 Henry: yeah. A lot of surveys show (.) suggest that (.) for the amount of land we  
525 have=

526 Luminita: =well that's a fact.

527 Henry: it's interesting you say about crowding then (.) do you mean crowding and  
528 moving fast (.) rather than at least here we're crowded but moving like  
529 slugs

530 Luminita: it is crowded (.) but then again this might be one of things tha- because my  
531 plans are to move back to continental Europe after ((omitted)) [so] in that  
532 sense (.) it's not necessarily that I like it here because it's crowded (.) that's  
533 one of the factors that could (1) make me think about moving.

534 Henry: [mm] so you like it in spite  
535 of being cro[wded] but (.) when the opportunity arises (.) you'll.

536 Luminita: [yeah] I like it for many things er (.) but not for that. Mm  
537 hmm hmm.

538 Henry: do you feel (.) like what we said about Europe (.) do you think (.) migration  
539 should be a right (.) or something that should be a privilege than can be  
540 taken away from people?

541 Luminita: it's di:fficult to answer that question. Cos erm (.) I don't know you have to  
542 take-two stances. One then is the individual's. I am always concerned that I  
543 would always des- maybe that's why I don't mind being er the odd one out  
544 (.) or like because I'm Roma:nian (.) or because I'm not from here (.) or  
545 whatever. Because I always thought as an individual (.) I'm important  
546 enough for that not to matter (.) so I was always very confident in my  
547 individuality (.) (.) but so at an individual level (.) that e↑verybody should  
548 have this right. (1) because yeah (.) it shouldn't ma:ttter. (.) but then again  
549 when it comes to groups or masses of people (.) then it's a different story.  
550 [You know it] doesn't work like that

551 Henry: [hmmm mm] so you would be sympathetic then to (.) with what's happened  
552 recently in the UK with the latest Immigration Bill (.) which limits to some  
553 extent what people can access when they first move here.

554 Luminita: mm

555 Henry: Because it's from that group point of view. Do you sympathise that that's  
556 something that needs to be done? Or is that something=

557 Luminita: =I mean I do understand the practicalities of it. And the practicalities of er  
558 (1) stopping immigration (.) well (.) not stopping it (.) but reducing it. Yeah  
559 (.) I mean not necessar- I don't think that this would solve any problem (.) I  
560 mean for me the problem is much more (.) bigger than that. Things like  
561 'you don't get this benefits' or whatever. The big problem which is a big  
562 problem for me in fact is more just demographi:cs (.) we just can't fight  
563 them. The way it grows (.) you just can't keep this er under control.  
564 Whether it's the UK or any other part of the world it's er (.) going to be  
565 extremely crowded and er (.) extremely sad in a few years. S:o=

566 Henry: do you feel that erm (.) despite what you were saying about the  
567 [pract]icalities (.) do you feel like (.) when politicians o- or people talk  
568 about you know the need to control or whatever do you feel that also (.)  
569 opens the possibility for prejudice?

570 Luminita: [yeah] yeah.

571 Henry: Un- and pointing people out? Do you=



572 Luminita: =I mean it happened with the Roma↑nians you know. I- I er pffh I'm sick of  
573 it in that sense. I mean (.) sometimes it annoys me sometimes it amu:ses  
574 me. But I'm talking about Romanians particularly. You know with the  
575 portrayal of them (.) and so on. Because erm from my country (.) I still feel  
576 like very much Romanian. You know I come from a Romanian family with  
577 Romanian roots (.) I speak the language very well I know my history (.) and  
578 so on (.) the history of the continent. And I feel like it- that makes me more  
579 of a Romanian than other people who are portrayed here as Romanians.  
580 Because (.) and that bothers me it does yeah (.) because (2) I understand the  
581 practicalities of this too (.) heh. If people need both the ((inaudible)) feed  
582 the people who aren't really bothered with er understanding er history of a  
583 country or whatever. It just er=

584 Henry: =who do you feel er mixed up when you're saying about portrayals?

585 Luminita: the gy[psies]. The gypsies

586 Henry: [hhh] and you feel there's a (.) distinction to be ma↓de. A ver- that's  
587 a fair distinction?

588 Luminita: it is (.) there is. Ethnically (.) it's a different group (.) culturally (.) it's a  
589 different group (.) historically it's a different group (.) I mean (.) there is  
590 that difference. It does bother me (.) cos there is a bit of ignorance there (.)  
591 but also I don't (.) if you're going to speak about something (2) I mean at  
592 least do it correctly. I mean I- I was actually looking at this. Every article  
593 that I read (.) and every news that I er it appears (.) and every documentary.  
594 Even the one's that are trying to be er really well made (.) every time they  
595 speak about Romanians (.) they either start with showing gypsies (1) or  
596 [they sp]end ninety percent of their time speaking about gypsies and that  
597 bothers me. Because that's not Romanian (.) (.) as such. I mean (.) they are  
598 Romanian citizens (.) and some of them are truly Romanians (.) but that's  
599 not all there is to it. I feel like yeah (.) the representativity of it is  
600 completely wrong. It's as if (.) it's as if (.) it doesn't even have to be a  
601 group (.) cos I understand it looks like 'oh okay you're 'unhappy about this  
602 because of a group you don't consider to be good enough'. You know it  
603 happens to be the case that with the culture (.) the culture I come from is  
604 better in some ways. But (.) Let's say scouzers for instance. If that's a:ll  
605 they would show about Britain (.) you know (.) don't you 'think (.) that  
606 would annoy you at some point? you know it's not only scouzers bu- it can  
607 be Londoners (.) it can be Parliament (.) that's all that [Britain is] you  
608 know (.) wouldn't it bother you at some point? I mean really is that all is  
609 there=

610 Henry: [mhmmm]

=I mean in the UK it's a really er contentious issue at the moment thu- a lot  
of people especially in Northern a- Western England that London  
dominates everything (.) so already there's a sense of it here=

611 Luminita: =mmm but also the cri↑minals (.) I er understand cos it makes the news  
612 you know (.) but if you have some beggars or some people who are sleeping  
613 rough in London then they also like er defecate in the parks or whatever  
614 that makes the news but that's always going to be shown as Romanians all

615 the time you know every time you say Romanians they show one of those  
616 images and er (.) and er (.) yeah. I think that's erm bothering me (.) becaus-  
617 at least if they show:ed er: a person (.) it doesn't have to be the best perso-  
618 it can be al:so a Gypsy person- I don't mind that (.) bu::t a normal one why  
619 does it have to be one that defecates in c::ity centre [you kn]ow (.) I mean  
620 can't you speak about something else? It does bo↑ther me (.) may:be for  
621 British people to understand bit better is if let's say u:m w- what is the word  
622 that is portrayed in this country↓

623 Henry: [mmm] well 'Brits Abroad' is quite a erm thing=

624 Luminita: =uh yeah fat drunk w[ome]n on the streets (.) or whatever pu- throwing  
625 u::p or whatever (.) or te↑rrori↑sts er (.) born here like British terrorists you  
626 know (.) wha:t i::f you would go to a country (.) an- and every time you (.)  
627 watched news and they say something ab- they would only show those  
628 people. You know (.) I mean how is that person more British than you are?

629 (5)

630 Henry: [yeah] yeah (2) it's ver=

631 Luminita: =It is um- (.) at this point I am well aware that I cannot change this (.) I just  
632 think that this e:r (.) social historical context I can't chang:e it (.) ye:ah it  
633 still bothers me sometimes

634 Henry: Do you feel (.) that um the Roma community living in the UK inadvertently  
635 then (.) u:h at least if they're the scapegoat (.) that they're promoted as this  
636 sort of exclusionary type- you know we were talking about the policies you  
637 know 'so and so can't get this or that' do you feel that this is the numb of  
638 the issue of why people are so cautious of migrants coming here (.) cos they  
639 only see the bad side?=  
640 Luminita: =well they only notice th[e ba↑]d side you know (.) if I'm walking past by  
641 you in the street (.) you: don't care where I'm from if I'm walking past by  
642 you and I'm trying to: get your wallet (.) y:ou will reme↑mber where I'm  
643 from. so yeah (.) I think there are many immigrants that come from  
644 di↑fferent countries that are unnoticed because they are di↑stant en[ough]  
645 (.) yeah

646 Henry: [mmm ]  
647 [mmm] s- (.) something that's often said now: er:m in regards to erm (.)  
648 we can get to erm the fact that it's often referred to as 'Romania and  
649 Bulgaria' in a sec[ond tha]t's something I want to ask you about(.) but how  
650 do you feel erm (.) about the rationale that- used (.) restrict movement from  
651 Romania because of the average wa:ge? Have you heard that mentioned?

652 Luminita: [ye:ah] =ye↑ah yeah yeah I have heard that (.) I mean it  
653 makes sen:se that the average wage is really sma:↑ll so people would come  
654 and work [he↓re] and (.) that it makes sense (.) to me (.) like if you ar- at the  
655 same time it depends- I dunno (.) I thi:nk most of the people (.) well I  
656 should know this quite well. most of the Romanians that (1) emigrate or  
657 they just go to a different country to work and just come back or whate↑ver  
658 (.) you either have the hi↑ghly educated ones: (.) that are going for really

659 well paid jobs that they going t- get anywa:y (.) even th- regardless of  
660 whatever you know (.) political- politics about visas and so o↑n (.) or:: the  
661 really lower ones (.) w- like in terms of th- th- um- (.) environment they  
662 come from money and so on (.) li:ke the lower working class. You know  
663 because they're desperate they have to go somewhere (.) the thing is um (.)  
664 most of that gro:up (.) has alre↑ady left you know for Spa:in and Ita:ly  
665 many years ago. I mean and even those who wanted to come to Britain  
666 have alre:ady co↑me. So its not like someone was waiting to come=

667 Henry: [mmm] =so the horse has already bolted?

668 Luminita: this is something man people don't realise (.) people could come before  
669 that. (.) the proce:dure was a bit more difficult you know (.) but it was still  
670 possible. (1) yeah.

671 Henry: I don't know if you remember in January(.) wh[en th]ere was talk that the  
672 restrictions were li↑fted and the news people (.) were at the air:port did you  
673 see it?

674 Luminita: [yes] it was funny.

675 Henry: yeah there a guy in particular who=

676 Luminita: the one with conjunctivas?

677 Henry: they interviewed him (.) and he was their- the first Romanian to arrive.  
678 There were others [who came but they] said they were all returning back.

679 Luminita: [already working here] now many people don't know this. But I  
680 don't bla↑me them. You can't really keep track of all these things. But it  
681 was fed into them that thats when they're going to come. Like they said 30  
682 million people from Romania and Bulgaria. There aren't 30 million people  
683 living there but that was what was expected. My gra:ndmo↑ther is going to  
684 come is she? I can imagine. I mean some people are doing well in  
685 Roma↑nia (.) they don't need to come here.

686 Henry: Is there something about Romania and Bulgaria being put together that=

687 Luminita: =I thi::nk thats one of the issues because when people are already fed up so  
688 um (.) time was it wasn't very likely. But on the other han- I mean I did  
689 look into the numbers. If you're looking at the number of Romanian  
690 immigrants coming to the UK (.) alongside other European countries with  
691 the exception of say Po:land (.) you have coming from all these other  
692 countries and they're really hu↑ge numbers compared with the numbers of  
693 Romanians and Bulgarians. Even if they a:ll come in time. Its all so- if you  
694 look at other numbers from other countries its easier to say that you're  
695 racist or um er- prejudiced against their religion because its their cu↑lture.  
696 Whereas with the Romanians leaving aside the gypsy er (.) thi:ng. You  
697 know its like its easier to pick up on them because we can't say 'you're just  
698 picking on us because we're Muslim' or 'black' you know. People just  
699 wanted to vent and they put it on this little guy on New Ye:ars Eve

700 Henry: so its like they found a scapego:at in a way.

701 Luminita: yeah I feel its very much so. Because it doesn't make (.) se:nse you know.  
 702 Number wise it just doesn't make sense. There must be bigger problems  
 703 here you know=

704 Henry: =does some of it maybe come from that people don't know the numbers.  
 705 They think it will be bi:gger than it could be=

706 Luminita: =ah yes there is that. There is a lot of ignorance there as well. You know  
 707 like 'where is Romania' kind of stuff. Then again you can't just force this  
 708 kind of thing on people. Whats the GDP nu[mber for]

709 Henry: (( [laughter ])) you said earlier it  
 710 upsets you when you are misrepresented. How does the Bulgarian aspect  
 711 affect you I mean not as a bad thin- but as being lumped into=

712 Luminita: =it's quite funny really. Because they are all very different. This thing with  
 713 the Euro- East European you know 'all the same' stuff. But they are quite  
 714 different. I don't know much about them because of the language divide.  
 715 We have different alphabets different hi:stories different cultural influences.  
 716 I don't feel I am in the same group as the Bulgarians any more than I am  
 717 with the Ukra:nians or Hungar:ians or Ger:mans or whatever. If anything I  
 718 feel closer to Germany than Bulgaria as there are a lot of Germans still i:n  
 719 [Romania]

720 Henry: [It sounds] a bit odd for you really then=

721 Luminita: =it is really. Um (.) yeah.

722 Henry: So is it the same for the East European label for you?

723 Luminita: I mean historically it ma↑kes sense (.) there are a lot of commonalities.  
 724 With the communism and so on. The group makes more sense than  
 725 Romanians and Bulgarians for sure. There are a lot of similarities  
 726 economically now but we are still very different culturally. Between the  
 727 Ukrainians and Bulgarians with Romanians or example. There are still huge  
 728 differences culturally.

729 Henry: I don't know- you might feel we have covered most of this stuff now=

730 Luminita: =no- no go ahead I like inconvenient questions.

731 Henry: There's a view that immigration leads to the majority group becoming more  
 732 marginal. Like they're being taken o↓ver. How do you relate to that- do you  
 733 feel it legitimately depicts=

734 Luminita: =how do you mean.

735 Henry: Like the argument goes that- the politicians often say it as British people  
 736 feel their communities are changing=

737 Luminita: =well yeah that change is a fact.

738 Henry: do you feel that its a legitimate feeling or more bound up with something  
 739 else=

740 Luminita: =I'm not an expert (.) I mean I watch documentaries and stuff. Loads of  
741 places here have changed a lot over time without a doubt. I understand the  
742 anxieties of people. Being a Romanian you know the situation changes  
743 quickly. Um (.) I can sympathise with them as well. But at the same time I  
744 have to um haha (.) the big picture you know. You can't fight it. I feel the  
745 same with Europe. I go with this um (4) I don't like it. Like how a British  
746 person. It's the same with Europe really. What I mean is that I feel that little  
747 place that little Romanian city (.) it's losing its charm. It's going to  
748 disappear. Because I like it how it is. And the fact I realise it's going to  
749 change. It bothers me. I do like it so I can understand why it bothers them  
750 because it's comfortable for them.

751 Henry: so y- you're worried places will lose their national identity over time?

752 Luminita: look at history you will always find different groups and dialects. In the  
753 future- I mean who knows the future it may well happen but it does make sense  
754 that people would gather into groups. Local administrations and so on.  
755 Look at Belgium. Flemish and French people there divided down the line  
756 having to speak both languages. The EU has not affected that. Not  
757 necessarily the politics but certainly the diversity side for sure.

758 (2)

759 Henry: what does citizenship mean to you? In light of earlier when you said the  
760 visa restrictions were lifted.

761 Luminita: I don't have any um (.) emotional attachment to it. You know you are born  
762 somewhere and that is your citizenship you know. It's very random in that  
763 sense. As it applies to the individual (.) the individual applies to society too  
764 I suppose.

765 Henry: from earlier you sound happy to integrate into society while retaining your  
766 Romanian identity?

767 Luminita: I guess I can feel I can adequately function in different societies relatively  
768 well. I mean I wouldn't say I have become more British. But um (.) I  
769 seldom (1) um define myself in such terms. I mean I still feel Romanian  
770 (.) I' (.)m definitely Romanian you know but I don't feel I need to integrate  
771 to function in the society as though there is something that makes me stand  
772 out you know.

773 Henry: I was just thinking from the point of view of being both a national and a  
774 member of the EU (.) you have like- the treaties say you have two layers of  
775 citizenship=

776 Luminita: I don't mind that. I feel European in that sense.

777 Henry: is it something you feel you are happy to identify with moving around (.) as  
778 it's something everyone can share?

779 (2)

780 Luminita: I don't think I've ever really thought about that. Like it does not really  
781 bother me. (1.5) as long (.) as long as it allows me to do what I want in

782 moving around. I'd rather be a Romanian citizen rather than say Moldavian  
783 (.) which was um part of Romania. which way round was it (.) Moldov-  
784 Moldav- ah yeah. Moldova was divided at some point for some reason and  
785 now its a different country.

786 Henry: when did that happen.

787 Luminita: um after the war (.) the soviet union um (.) it was part of that. But the point  
788 here is that its just a street away from me (.) so to speak. On the border as it  
789 were. But the different is hu:ge (.) I don't think i'd be bothered being a  
790 Moldovian citizen but when it comes to moving around like applying for  
791 visas and what not it'd be massive. Whereas now I don't (.) you know.

792 Henry: you sound very knowledgable about the history of Romania. you seem to  
793 have an interest?

794 (2)

795 Luminita: ((laughter)) I don't think I have an interest as such in history.

796 Henry: Really? It comes across that way=

797 Luminita: I guess like geography stuff just sticks doesn't it. Not a major interest  
798 though.

799 Henry: but surely certain things like Romania's history will have been changing in  
800 schools and such when you were growing u:p?

801 Luminita: It w:as. Maybe that makes me more aware I suppose.what was before  
802 communism and so on. Getting a clear idea of how things changed.

803 Henry: I don't want to put words in your mouth but (.) it does sound=

804 Luminita: no not at all. I appreciate that.

805 Henry: what haven't I asked you ((rustles paper))

806 (4)

807 Luminita: yeah I feel I am Roma↑nian. I don't mind as I do often think about what I  
808 like about Romania (.) who I like.

809 Henry: do you miss it?

810 Luminita: hmmm (.) It depends as I miss my family. But then my brother lives here  
811 (.) no not for the moment.

812 Henry: do you miss the food=

813 Luminita: I definitely miss the food. Its like missing childhood though. Even I was  
814 there I would probably miss things. I do miss so:me things you know. The  
815 comfortable fe- hearing your native language you know it comforts you. Its  
816 probably an evolutionary thing you know 'I feel safe' you know how things  
817 are you know ((laughs)).

818 Henry: to turn it on its head it kind o- sounds kind of similar to the point um UKIP  
819 made about groups speaking Romanian. That somehow that makes others  
820 uncomfortable=

821 Luminita: to be fair he seemed to be talking about you know pi:ck pocketers which I  
822 myself would feel uncomfortable around.

823 Henry: do you think maybe that this gives a reason for people to justify their  
824 prejudice?

825 Luminita: no:: its just that comfy feeling you know of hearing your mother speak.  
826 That's all. Although I'm not saying he meant it that way ((laughs)) I was  
827 not saying he had some kind of problem with his own language.

828 Henry: with that said if I can ask you a last question (.) how do you feel that UKIP  
829 might gain some seats at the next election.

830 Luminita: I don't think its possible (.) he can't locally but if its the European  
831 parliament that's a different story (.) I mean we have these parties  
832 everywhere.

833 Henry: is this economic or=

834 Luminita: no I think there are al:ways people like this who are unhappy with things.  
835 Maybe I am naive I am not sure but i do not feel its like a bi:g threat. No  
836 Nazis or anything

837 Henry: so it wouldn't bother you if they won in the local area

838 Luminita: I wouldn't care that much (.) at least that I cannot say I have thought about  
839 it that much you know.

840 Henry: it sounds like you've overall had quite a positive exp:erience [here.]

841 Luminita: [yeah] my  
842 main experience has been watching tho↓se documentaries and such. They  
843 don't really help it (.) but I can also relate with Romania you now 'you're  
844 from the north or south or whatever'. Its always the wea:ker individuals  
845 who will hang onto this identity you know. So if someone comes in and  
846 impo:ses themselves onto me like 'I'm British you're Romanian' I already  
847 feel they are weaker than me. As I wouldn't like the person to begin with.  
848 Maybe I'm ignorant but that is not a problem I face now. Maybe I might  
849 start looking at it 'ohhh so you're from Roma::nia (.) that's why' you know.

850 Henry: but if that works for you and helps you settle in

851 Luminita: I don't feel welcome or unwelcome (.) just me I guess (laughter)

852 Henry: thats very British (.) just get on with it (laughter) I think if its okay we'll  
853 leave it there. You've answered over and above what I was gonna ask so  
854 thank you so much for coming to tal- I'll turn this off ((transcript ends))  
855

*Transcript 2: Alexandru*

856 Henry: Let's get that one going. That one's going (.) I will leave it. Okay (.) so  
857 after all the delays (2) e::rm so if I can- if I can just start er by you telling  
858 me a bit about youse↑lf. So for example (.) you mentioned earlier that you  
859 worked. So what job do you do?

860 Alexandru: Yes (.) I am an Android Developer.

861 Henry: Android Developer?

862 Alexandru: Yes (.) for a company called ((name removed)) which is in Sheff[ie↑ld]. I  
863 work part-time (.) and so (.) bala:nce it with studie:s.

864 Henry: [okay] What  
865 does that job entail then?

866 Alexandru: um (.) basically I do applications for mobile pho:nes which are running on  
867 Android.

868 Henry: It is quite technical then (.) is it?=  
869 Alexandru: =Yes (.) it is all technical=  
870 Henry: =Yeah so you like all that technology (.) stuff?  
871 Alexandru: Yes (.) well it is basically what I am studying (.) so=  
872 Henry: =Ri[ght]  
873 Alexandru: [ess]entially work experience  
874 Henry: Right (.) what is the degree you are studying then?  
875 Alexandru: uh (.) software engineering.  
876 Henry: Software engineering. Right. And what year are you in?  
877 Alexandru: Fourth year.  
878 Henry: Fourth year (.) is it a four year degree then?  
879 Alexandru: It is an Undergraduate Masters (.) so this is the Masters year.  
880 Henry: Oh I see (.) Undergraduate and then one year Masters (.) oh okay then=  
881 Alexandru: =It is like one thing (.) it is not separated.  
882 Henry: Yes (.) it is all sandwiched and you are doing the work experience  
883 alongside it?  
884 Alexandru: Yes.  
885 Henry: Right (.) oh okay then. um (.) Obviously you're Romanian. Did you come  
886 erm just for this course (.) from four years ago then now to the UK?  
887 Alexandru: Yes (.) I only came here to study.



888 Henry: mmm. So what um (.) sorry (.) what motivated you to come to study in the  
889 UK then initially?

890 Alexandru: Romania is quite good when it comes to mathematic co[urs]es but not so  
891 much when it comes to computer science co[urses] because in Romania (1)  
892 u::h when you study computer science you study maths and physics and  
893 chemistry and (.) loads of other stuff. Basically I wanted to study just on  
894 computer science and focus as much as possible on tha↑t. So: initially I  
895 looked for a degree in Canada but that was way over my budget=

896 Henry: [right]  
897 [right] =what (.) in terms of the tuition?

898 Alexandru: Tuition fees (.) the accommoda↑tion and everything (.) it was way: too  
899 much. Then I looked for other countries wher↓e I would study in En:GLISH  
900 and I came across the: degree Sheffield is doing (.) and I thought that suited  
901 me (.) what I wanted to do in the future.

902 Henry: Was i- so (.) was it ma:inly the course that attracted you then? That it was

903 Alexandru: Ye::ah (.) mainly the course (.) because at Sheffield you don't do any  
904 hardware (.) ar- you just do programming. So that is what I wanted to do.  
905 And also the city was really nice and that campus.

906 Henry: So you came for an open day then?

907 Alexandru: Nah (.) I just emailed the department and asked for (.) a student email and  
908 they gave me two emails and I spoke with those students. And they told me  
909 about the city (.) they sent me pictures about the union (.) [that] helped  
910 towards my decision.

911 Henry: [yeah] yes and  
912 that helped you inform your decision. Yeah so I suppose also speaking  
913 English that was on your criteria as well that you went to.

914 Alexandru: Yes (.) top of the li↑st actually=

915 Henry: Top of the list. Were there no erm (.) Roma↑nian speaking countries that  
916 were a possibility?

917 Alexandru: Well Romania- Romanian is only spoken in Romania=

918 Henry: =Only spoken in Romania (.) oh okay. So it wasn't an option to perhaps go  
919 to Spain or Italy?

920 Alexandru: No I uh=

921 Henry: =I understand it is a Romance langua↑ge [isn't it?]

922 Alexandru: [Yes (.) it's] a romance language  
923 but I don't speak Spanish or Italian so=

924 Henry: =Oh okay then (.) so it wasn't an option?

925 Alexandru: Yes. And when I decided it would have been too late to start studying  
926 Italian or Spanish.

927 Henry: mmm (.) so s- did you learn English (.) growing up then in Romania?

928 Alexandru: Yes (.) at school.

929 Henry: yeah. So I suppose you knew much more to begin with about it=

930 Alexandru: =Yes (.) I did 10 years of English before coming here.

931 Henry: 10 years?=

932 Alexandru: =Yes

933 Henry: So you felt quite happy with the idea of living awa[y an]d not (.) being able  
934 to I suppose rel::y on (.) your mother tongue?

935 Alexandru: [yeah] Ye::ah (.) I wasn't  
936 too bothered about that.

937 Henry: Ye[:ah]

938 Alexandru: [took] it as a challenge.

939 Henry: As a challenge (.) yeah (.) And how do you feel you are getting on with that  
940 challenge then? Do you feel like=

941 Alexandru: =Well now it is a lo:t better (.) when I got [here] I was like (.) quite  
942 sho:cked because of the acc:ent=

943 Henry: =the accent?

944 Alexendru: ye:ah I was sort of expecting people to speak as you would hear it on TV=

945 Henry: =Is that the posh Londoner type accent?

946 Alexandru: Yes (.) exactl[y. And] then I came here and then (.) I didn't understand  
947 anything (.) er: I did understand som- when I came to lectures and lecturers  
948 because they speak quite clear En[glish] but on a daily bal- daily basis stuff  
949 like going to the sho:[p or ba]nks (.) stuff like that.

950 Henry: [oh okay] [yeah]  
951 [mmm] Do you find people speak a lot faster  
952 or=

953 Alexandru: =It isn't that they speak faster (.) it is just the accent (.) the way they  
954 pronounce words it is a lot of different than what I imagined.

955 Henry: Yes. Can you think of any words like in Sheffield (.) you know like (.)  
956 Because there is a thing about bread and cobs and baps (.) I don't know if  
957 you have ever heard about tha:t? But even among English speakers what  
958 you are referring to can be (.) Have you had an instance where you think (.)  
959 "I don't know what you mean (.) what are you talking about?"=

960 Alexandru: =I know that. In my first year I used to live in Opal (.) have you heard of it?

961 Henry: No.

962 Alexandru: It is a centre accommodation which is private (.) but it has a partnership  
963 with the university. So they had a reception and all of our parcels would go  
964 the↑re and when I was speaking a lot (.) the security guys were very funny  
965 and trying to be funny with me but I didn't understand what they were  
966 saying. I would be like just nodding away=

967 Henry: =Yes (.) just nodding along [with them]

968 Alexandru: [Now give] me my parcel.

969 Henry: ((laughter)) Yes (.) just let me go ((laughter)) That happens to me quite a lot  
970 (.) I can relate to that. uh (.) so (.) My next question about the process of  
971 leading up to your decision (.) it was really about what courses are out there  
972 and what factors really fit with that? I suppose you have already answered  
973 that really haven't you. (.) Can you tell me about any thoughts or feelings  
974 you had about coming to the UK? Did you have any expectations? You said  
975 erm (.) about what the accent would be like=

976 Alexandru: Yeah (.) I was expecting the accent to be a lot (.) like it is in the South (.)  
977 like in London. Any other expectations? (.) I heard that people were really  
978 nice and kind and friendly and I was expecting that and my expectations  
979 were met. U:m (.) That is about it I guess=

980 Henry: =Yeah (.) so I suppose you've got (.) you've you've er:m (.) you day about  
981 the um student accommodation you were in in the first year (.) that was  
982 with other students studying computer soft[ware]. So that was probably like  
983 a big mix of people wasn't it?=

984 Alexandru: [ye:ah] =Yes (.) it was a big mix  
985 of people from different countries (.) different courses=

986 Henry: =yeah. So how did you find that then-  
987 was that quite a nice thing to move into for you then?

988 Alexandru: u:r (.) it was alright in the first few wee↑ks (.) after a while it became  
989 annoying ur (.) because two of my flatmates were r[eally messy] and we  
990 had mouldy stuff everywhere in the kitche:n. And I couldn't get them to  
991 clean up and it became a bit annoying but along with the other flatmates we  
992 managed to keep it under control=

993 Henry: [oh go:d yeah] =Yes (.) I  
994 suppose it is better when you have got other people on your side [haven't  
995 you?]

996 Alexandru: [Yeah (.) we  
997 ] were six in the flat so three of us were=

998 Henry: =Three tidy (.) three not. And what about your second and third year? Did  
999 you move in with those people?

1000 Alexandru: No (.) I made some friends at uni- some Romanian friends an:d I moved in:  
1001 a different private accommodation (.) a hall with tho↓se people=

1002 Henry: =oh oka↑y then. What made you choose to move in with other Roma↑nian  
1003 friends then? Was it just because of the Society you joined then?

1004 Alexandru: To be hone:st (.) er: (.) no (.) not really about the Society. To be honest in  
1005 the first year (.) I only spent most of my time (.) I spent with Romanians (1)  
1006 which is not the smart:est thing now (.) if I think about it (.) Bu::t that's I  
1007 think that's why (.) mostly because all: of my friends are Romanians (.) so  
1008 then I wanted to move with friends (.) so I moved with them=

1009 Henry: =yeah (.) well you say about y- you might look back and you think  
1010 differently but I suppose it is just interesting (.) because we always have  
1011 choices don't we (.) after the first year who we want to move in with? And  
1012 it is just a matter of who we end up cl[oser to]

1013 Alexandru: [I didn't] really know any other people that  
1014 close (.) to be able to live with them. Because when I ca↑me here (.) for  
1015 computer science in my year we were at the beginning thirtee↑n  
1016 Roma↑nians out of 120 peopl↑e. So: (.) it's quite a lot so I was in a small  
1017 group and we were really happy (.) always hanging out together. [So I]  
1018 didn't really go out of that group to meet other people.

1019 Henry: [yeah]  
1020 mmm no that is fair enough. So (.) um (3) Yeah (.) I suppose you have  
1021 answered that it's cos (.) ob- obviously I have got an idea of questions but  
1022 as you are saying things I am trying to sort of relate it (.) um (.) so ha- when  
1023 you moved into your Halls then (.) did you find then (.) with your course in  
1024 particular (.) did you find that you were able to settle in quite ea:sily (.) erm  
1025 to the everyday stuff of living in the UK? Did it- did it feel like you had to  
1026 try very hard because you had your English?=-

1027 Alexandru: =No (.) it didn't feel hard at all.

1028 Henry: Was it okay?

1029 Alexandru: Yes (.) I actually really enjoyed it and I really enjoy it. And (.) when I go  
1030 ba:ck (.) back to Romania (.) it feels so different=

1031 Henry: =feels different

1032 Alexandru: Yeah (.) at the moment I feel like I don't belong the↓re because I got so  
1033 used to being he:re and all of my friends are here (.) My: li↑fe is here  
1034 basically because I work here (.) I go to uni here. (1) I am not really  
1035 attached to Romania anymore.

1036 Henry: so=

1037 Alexandru: =I am bu- (2)

1038 Henry: Yeah (.) How then (.)you say you identify living here and your life is here  
1039 (.) how does being Romanian fit in with that? Is that just something that=

1040 Alexandru: =It doesn't really get in the way because people don't really look at where  
1041 you are from (.) so that counts a lot

1042 Henry: So you don't feel it is very important really in terms of how=

1043 Alexandru: =No (.) doesn't really matter where we are from

1044 Henry: okay

1045 (1)

1046 Alexandru: to most people at least

1047 Henry: Yeah (.) that's often the case with most people. So (.) God (.) you are  
 1048 whizzing through these questions (.) you are answering them very  
 1049 concisely. um (.) You say you are at this tech Company (.) you are at the  
 1050 Android job you were telling me about (.) you live in Sheffield. Do you  
 1051 actually live in the city centre or↑?=  
 1052 Alexandru: =Yes (.) I live in the city centre in S3.  
 1053 Henry: right (.) have you always lived in Sheffield City?  
 1054 Alexandru: Yeah.  
 1055 Henry: So you have not actually moved out to the countryside or=  
 1056 Alexandru: =No (.) I haven't been to the countryside but I have travelled quite a lo:t  
 1057 with my previous job. So I have seen quite a few cities in the UK=  
 1058 Henry: =yeah (.) Do you want to tell me anything about any of those experiences  
 1059 you had? Any particular places you have been to↑ or anything you  
 1060 particularly enjoyed?  
 1061 Alexandru: I have been to loa::ds of places. This summer I was in Lee:ds and I really  
 1062 liked it because it is fla:t=  
 1063 Henry: =Yeah (.) no hi:lls (.) yeah  
 1064 Alexandru: And it is a lot more European I guess and a lot cleaner and tidier and had  
 1065 flowe:rs and yes it looks=  
 1066 Henry: =Better maintained I suppose?  
 1067 Alexandru: Yes.  
 1068 Henry: Yes [((inaudible))] no you go=  
 1069 Alexandru: [((inaudible))] =I have also been in Liverpool (.) Blackpool (1) they're  
 1070 nice.  
 1071 Henry: Blackpool I suppose you went for the rides and the [er] is it Blackpool  
 1072 Tow:er?  
 1073 Alexandru: [yes] yes (.) been to the  
 1074 rides. I have been to Alton Towers which was ama:zing. I have been twice.  
 1075 I wasn't impressed by London (.) I really don't like London I ha:te  
 1076 London=  
 1077 Henry: =No I totally agree with you (.) it is far too big (.) far to[o busy]  
 1078 Alexandru: [Yeah (.) w]ay too crowded  
 1079 Henry: Yes (.) I definitely agree with you.

1080 Alexandru: Yes. I have been two or three weeks ago (.) in London for a daytrip and it  
1081 absolutely exhau↑sted me.

1082 Henry: Yeah (.) at the end of the day you just feel like (.) “I don’t want anymore  
1083 people [now] (.) I’m done” Yes (.) I know how that feels.

1084 Alexandru: [yeah] The Tube was so crowded and-  
1085 (1)

1086 Henry: s- (.) I suppose you nonetheless like the city life? You like the idea of=  
1087 Alexandru: =Yes (.) I like the city life but not as big as London. So Sheffield is perfec:t  
1088 for me or (.) or Lee::ds or Manchester: (.) London is way too big and way  
1089 too crowded. And everyone’s rea:lly (.) in London at least (.) everyone’s  
1090 really: (.) in a ru↑:sh and they are not kind to each other anymo↑re because  
1091 they are in a rush and they have their own things to worry about. (.) I think  
1092 life in London is more stressful than here.

1093 Henry: cu- so you can’t find yourself moving down there for the for the=  
1094 Alexandru: =No:: (.) I hope I will never have to move down there=  
1095 Henry: =Do you know where um (.) your sort o- (.) in your Industry where the jobs  
1096 are↓ do you know where you might end up?

1097 Alexandru: Ye:a↓h (.) most of the jobs are in London obviously and Cambridge and I  
1098 think Bir↑mingham is quite a good place as well. But I think I am going to  
1099 end up in Sheffield because the company I am working for uh (.) so  
1100 currently they have offered me a contract until the end of June (.) a part-  
1101 time contra↑ct. And they said that they really want to keep me↑ (.) So: it  
1102 depends on how the company’s financial things are going to go. If  
1103 everything is going to go right (.) they are going to offer me a contract in  
1104 January=

1105 Henry: =Oh okay. So if they don’t offer you you will have a look in Birmingham or  
1106 was it Manchester and Leeds did you say?

1107 Alexandru: Manchester (.) Cambridge yeah.

1108 Henry: Cambridge (.) yes. Oh okay then. I suppose it’s just a matter of waiting and  
1109 seeing and h[o↑ping] that they find some money somewhere to employ you.  
1110 It sounds like your plan is to indef- to me that your plan is to indefinitely  
1111 stay in the UK then?

1112 Alexandru: [Yea:h] yes (.) definitely I will definitely stay here.

1113 Henry: You say you have got friends here (.) have they all more or less come over  
1114 for study reasons?=  
1115 Alexandru: Yeah (.) a:ll of them (.) yeah

1116 Henry: So what was it like- you were all like I dunno (.) what ye:a- how old are  
1117 you when you leave school in Rom[ania]?

1118 Alexandru: [er:] (.) I was in nineteen.

1119 Henry: nineteen. Yes (.) did you all sort of come at the sa:me ti:me for all the  
 1120 different courses you were starting?=  
 1121 Alexandru: =Yes.  
 1122 Henry: What about the family side the↓n. How does your family fit in this? Are  
 1123 they back in Romania?=  
 1124 Alexandru: =Yes (.) all of them are back in Roma:nia and even from the beginning they  
 1125 have been really supporti:ve because I decided to come here two years  
 1126 before I graduated from High Schoo↑l.  
 1127 Henry: Right (.) so you were sevente:en?  
 1128 Alexandru: Yes: seventeen (.) when I told them that I really wanted to come study here  
 1129 they took it as a jo::ke=  
 1130 Henry: =Really?  
 1131 Alexandru: Yes (.) they were like “Oh yes (.) of course (.) go ahead” (.) And then when  
 1132 they actu- realised that I am going to (.) apply and taking an exam test er::  
 1133 English test (.) u::h they were like (.) [“Okay (.) let’s talk about this] How  
 1134 much money do you nee::d and what does this invol::ve?” and (.) I sort of  
 1135 had an agreement with them that they would support me for my fi↑rst year  
 1136 and the::n I would have to find a job and obviously support myself (.) and  
 1137 pay for everything.  
 1138 Henry: (((laughter)) ] um (.) you  
 1139 pay the same rates don’t you?  
 1140 Alexandru: Yeah.  
 1141 Henry: It’s just the accommodation (.) do you get any support for  
 1142 accommodation?=  
 1143 Alexandru: =N::o  
 1144 Henry: It is purely what you can=  
 1145 Alexandru: =Purely what I can.  
 1146 Henry: Ri↑:ght. So I suppose it was quite a big deal then for your parents to say (.)  
 1147 “well w- we’ll support you.” Because it sort of puts pressure on both of you  
 1148 doesn’t it=  
 1149 Alexandru: =For Romanian people it is quite a lot of money (.) yes it is a lot of money  
 1150 to: support someone in the UK. (.) Because the Hall accommodation is so:  
 1151 expensive (.) so much more expensi- I think I was paying for (.) so in  
 1152 Romania you pay for accommodation if you live in a uni ha↓ll about twenty  
 1153 pounds a month [including]  
 1154 Henry: [twenty po]unds a month?=  
 1155 Alexandru: =Ye[s]  
 1156 Henry: [A] month (.) gosh=

1157 Alexandru: =And maybe twenty five pounds during winter ti↑me.

1158 Henry: Oh I see ((laughter))

1159 Alexandru: So it would have been a lot mor[e chea]per to study there. Plus tha:t (.) I  
 1160 wouldn't have ended up with a loan because now I have a tuition fee loan  
 1161 and in Roma↑nia if I would have good grades (.) which I ha:d at the time I  
 1162 would have had been u:h (.) had a grant from the university so I wouldn't  
 1163 have paid any tuition fees.

1164 Henry: [wow::] Right (.) so it was quite a big  
 1165 decision for you then to sort of (.) tr- trust that the industry and the courses  
 1166 that were there were wo↓rth the money I suppose?=  
 1167 Alexandru: =Yeah  
 1168 (1)

1169 Henry: Wo:w that is such a- yes (.) it is so profound because when I was looking at  
 1170 uni my accommodation (.) I think the cheapest uni accommodation is  
 1171 something like forty nine pounds a week and that is the cheapest in the  
 1172 [UK. Mi]ne was about fifty six (.) so that is really good.

1173 Alexandru: [yeah Y]es (.) it is really good=

1174 Henry: =And yet twenty pounds a month (.) wow I mean I can just see the  
 1175 differ[ence]

1176 Alexandru: [Well] the difference is that here you live in your own room while  
 1177 there you shared a room with another person or another two people.

1178 Henry: Oh okay so the rooms were bigger then?

1179 Alexandru: Yeah (((laughter)))

1180 Henry: [They would] have to be bigger wouldn't they?

1181 Alexandru: Slightly=

1182 Henry: =Gosh (.) o↑h okay. So you say your family were really suppor:tive (.) um  
 1183 how have you found juggling sort of like the family there and you being  
 1184 here? Have you just sort of (.) made the occasional phone call and left it at  
 1185 that or [do you often go back?]

1186 Alexandru: [We Skype quite often:] an:d they call me on my phone b- cos (.)  
 1187 now I am really busy: with uni and (.) with my job (.) so I don't get to stay  
 1188 on Skype so: often so they call me whenever they feel like they need to talk  
 1189 to me and I ca↑ll them as well ((cough)) But it wasn't too difficult to keep  
 1190 in touch (.) I guess if you really want to keep in touch you find t[he time]  
 1191 and you find a mean of keeping in touch.

1192 Henry: [yeah ah] (1)  
 1193 fair enough because it just seems to me that four years is=-

1194 Alexandru: =It is three years (.) yes this is the fourth one.



1195 Henry: The fourth (.) yes (.) yes. That they might feel like it is quite a long time  
1196 from being like (.) “You’re joking.” To all of a sudden (.) “My God (.) he’s  
1197 going (.) it’s happening.” And then all that ti:me (.) I suppos- do you go  
1198 back for summertime or have you just been working during that time?

1199 Alexandru: In my first year I used to go every holiday (.) I went back every holiday.  
1200 Then in my second ye↑ar (.) I stayed here for the whole year so I went in  
1201 the second Decemb- (.) second year home for Christmas bre↑ak in  
1202 December and then I didn’t go until the next December for a whole [ye]a↑r.  
1203 b- cos (.) in the meantime I got the job so I couldn’t leave=

1204 Henry: [ah] =Ye:s (.) so it  
1205 just meant that you were here the whole ti↑me then?

1206 Alexandru: Yes (.) but it was a lot easier than I expected it to be. Because in my first  
1207 ye↓ar from September when I came here until December I actually started  
1208 missing ho:me and being ho:↓me but afterwards I was fine.

1209 Henry: and (.) I suppose what you were saying at the beginning (.) you started to  
1210 feel that when you go ba:ck it doesn’t quite feel the same?

1211 Alexandru: Yes. When you go from something alri:ght to something better it is quite  
1212 hard to go back. so (.) Because in Romania people are quite poo↓r and that  
1213 stresses them out and they are not kind to each other and all of them are like  
1214 (.) I don’t know (.) u:m moo:dy (.) gru:mpy. In the end it gets to you (.) and  
1215 it gets you in such mood as well.

1216 Henry: And is that something that looking back (.)was something else that you  
1217 were aware of t[hen?]

1218 Alexandru: [No (.) n]ot really no=

1219 Henry: =It is just something that since bei[ng a]way you have noticed?=

1220 Alexandru: [Yes] =yeah

1221 Henry: that’s (.) that’s interesting because d- do you ever get a sense that people are  
1222 moody he:re (.) or is it perhaps a different mo[od or not at all? ]

1223 Alexandru: [No:: not really] no Because  
1224 he:re people when they have (.) some problems because everyone has their  
1225 own problems they leave them at ho::me (.) they don’t take them to their  
1226 jo:b. So even if you go to the store (.) even if it’s like a very ba:dly paid  
1227 jo↑b (.) that person still puts a smile on their face when they are there while  
1228 in Romania you don’t get that.

1229 Henry: Yeah (2) You have had then (.) by the sounds of it (.) a really positive  
1230 experience [being h]ere

1231 Alexandru: [Yes (.) so f]ar=

1232 Henry: =And you have not had a sense of (.) you know y- you were saying about  
1233 moodiness (.) I think that captures it really well (.) this sort of li↑ke you  
1234 have never had people (.) er: grumpy with you (.) or off with you and you  
1235 don’t know why? You have never had any experiences like that then?

1236 Alexandru: No:: (.) not really (.) no=  
1237 Henry: =No  
1238 (1)  
1239 Alexandru: All my experiences were nice and (.) welcomi↑ng and everyone was like (.)  
1240 "Oh you're from Romania (.) how is i:t? How are you finding i↑t? I know:  
1241 (.) some Romanians." uh (.) I used to work in ((omitted)) at a store (.) I was  
1242 promoting Windows 8 and I used to (.) talk to people quite a lot during the  
1243 day and once a gentleman came and he asked me where I was from and I  
1244 told him that I was Romania. He was like (.) "Oh yes (.) I know some  
1245 Roma↑nians they are really hard working" so (.) pretty much every time I  
1246 heard something about Romania[ns i]t was positive things.  
1247 Henry: [mm] So I suppose the thing I want to get on  
1248 to (.) so what are your thoughts then with all those positive things in mind  
1249 then (.) in your personal experience what are your feelings about the way  
1250 that the me::dia sort of- or at least things on television and the news portray  
1251 things like what they call 'Eastern European migration' and things like that.  
1252 Does it bother you? Do you feel like↑?=  
1253 Alexandru: =er:: yes actually it doe:s. It bothers me because most of the things are not  
1254 true and they are focussing on a small group of Romanians which are:n't  
1255 really Romanians (.) they are gypsies.  
1256 (1)  
1257 Henry: mm  
1258 Alexandru: And they are focussing on the bad things that small group of people do: (.)  
1259 while (.) they are completely ignoring what other people do which are like  
1260 the majori↑ty who go to work (.) who pay tax:es (.) who study here (.) who  
1261 (.) a[ctua]lly contribute to the society. (.) It's quite annoying (.) And they  
1262 are also exaggeratin:g because before (.) I don't know if you were aware  
1263 but we had work permits until [2014] and before lifting those working  
1264 restrictio↑ns all the newspapers were like (.) "Oh my God millions of  
1265 Romanians are (.) They've already bought their tickets (.) they're comin:g  
1266 (.) brace yourselves." And on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January o- only one Romanian  
1267 came.  
1268 Henry: [mmm]  
1269 [y- mm] Yes (.) I am trying to remember his  
1270 name now. [Victor wasn't it?]  
1271 Alexandru: [Yea:h yeah (.) exac]tly. And he left in the meantime  
1272 because (1)  
1273 Henry: Well yes he was hounded by the press. If I remember right (.) was he  
1274 washing cars?=  
1275 Alexandru: =Yes (.) initially (.) yes.  
1276 Henry: He was doing something like that (.) yes. And then he split up with his  
1277 girlfriend I think (.) something like that.

1278 Alexandru: yeah (.) I think because he got so much media attention no one wanted to  
1279 hire him afterwar[↑ds] so he had to leave and go back.

1280 Henry: [mm] so I suppose it is more of a question of how the  
1281 media represents it as a generic thing rather than you feel like it has been  
1282 displaced on to you? Because you say you have not had any negative  
1283 experiences like t[hat w]hich is (.) I suppose it is a testament to how  
1284 positive Sheffield is then? Rather than=

1285 Alexandru: [Yes] =probably different in Lon↓don.

1286 Henry: In London. Yeah because the general impression seems to be that (.) it  
1287 wouldn't be so (.) every day it wouldn't be so- so nice (.) that is just the (.) I  
1288 don't know but it is a positive thing isn't it?

1289 Alexandru: Yeah

1290 Henry: You said about work permits then (.) was it something that when you were  
1291 applying did you have to fill out any sort of paperwork like a [study] visa or  
1292 something?

1293 Alexandru: [yeah]  
1294 Yes it was a bit of a nightmare because before I came here they changed the  
1295 regul↑atio:ns and when I came here to get a work permit I was required to:  
1296 er (.) get insurance (.) private medical insurance which was £40 per month.  
1297 And that put a bit of a strain on my bu[dget an]:d on top of that the  
1298 application process took si↑x months (.) five six months something like  
1299 that. So I sent my documents and then I got the work permit back in about  
1300 six months.

1301 Henry: [ye:↑ah] Yes (.) in some  
1302 of the other interviews that I have done so far a theme that has come up (.)  
1303 er::m (.) what you were just saying about how lo::ng it took to get papers  
1304 through (.) it wasn't actually difficult to do it (.) [it wa]s

1305 Alexandru: [yeah] it was quite  
1306 easy yeah

1307 Henry: just a long wait:=-

1308 Alexandru: =Yes (.) it was a long wait. And (.) it was really annoying because they  
1309 were keeping your ID:

1310 Henry: What your pass[ports] and things like that? Was it the Home Office you  
1311 were sending it to?

1312 Alexandru: [Yeah] Yes (.) Home Office (.) U[K Border]

1313 Henry: [Who of] course are obviously  
1314 very good with passports ((laughter))=

1315 Alexandru: =Yes (.) I think they actually lost some IDs for some people (.) And the  
1316 thing is that quite a few of my friends didn't apply as soon as they got he↑re  
1317 so they had to wait for more than five or six months for them (.) it was like  
1318 ei:ght or nine months.

1319 Henry: right (.) That is one of those sorts of untold stories then isn't it (.) that it is  
1320 sort of?=  
1321 Alexandru: =I was aware when I came here because I did loads of research before  
1322 coming he↓re about everythi↑ng and I knew about it. And most of the  
1323 people that I know of: knew about how long it takes and about the whole  
1324 process. Like you said the process is really easy [you] just had to complete  
1325 quite a big form (.) send your ID: (.) the proof that you have me↑dical  
1326 insura:nce and that you are a stu↑dent. I think that is it. Oh yeah and that  
1327 you can financially support yourself and you are not going to ask for (.)  
1328 financial support from the Governme↑nt. And that was about it.

1329 Henry: [mm] So I suppose then (.) h-  
1330 how- did you= attach any meaning to it personally then when January the  
1331 1<sup>st</sup> ca↑me and all those sorts of things (.) Because obviously you wouldn't  
1332 need to do those sorts of things now in the same way would you?=  
1333 Alexandru: =Yeah

1334 Henry: Was that something quite nice for you to know that if you ever did  
1335 something (.) if you ever returned and then came back again or something  
1336 like tha↓t (.) that you wouldn't have to do as much paperwork?

1337 Alexandru: I really didn't think about it (.) u::m I thought it was nice because I know of  
1338 the struggle that- other people went through and I thought that (.) if other  
1339 Romanians come to study here or to work here it is going to be a lot easier  
1340 f[or the]m. But at the same time I was a bit worried because (.) to be honest  
1341 I thought that a lot more Romanians are going to come here to work and  
1342 mostly gypsies. (.) [An:d] I am not really fond of seeing gypsies here  
1343 because normally they (.) Maybe some of them work (.) I don't know (.) but  
1344 quite a few of them are like into stealing and (.) even now like in London  
1345 there were some people (.) you know the bridge next to Big Ben=  
1346 Henry: [yeah] =oh yeah

1347 Alexandru: they were doing (.) playing a game with- I don't know if you know it (.) it  
1348 is a small ball with three cups and they put er: the ball under a [cup a]nd  
1349 then [they just move]

1350 Henry: [mmm] [And then  
1351 they] shuffle it (.) yeah

1352 Alexandru: Then they were playing that game and people were actually betting twenty  
1353 pounds (.) money which you are nev:er going to win because they are so  
1354 good at it that they are always going to trick you and you are never going to  
1355 get the right cup=  
1356 Henry: =Yes and it turns out the ball was chucked over the bridge or something (.)  
1357 it wasn't even there=  
1358 Alexandru: =Actually when I passed by there was a guy who was like (.) "Oh my God  
1359 (.) I won (.) I won (.) I won but it was one of them." He was Romanian=

1360 Henry: =Right (.) oh okay then. So it is this sense I suppose that (.) what you were  
1361 saying about er:m (.) Romanian gypsies they are misreprese[nting]  
1362 Romanian culture to some extent.

1363 Alexandru: [yeah] That  
1364 is the thing and with media they don't (.) like distinguish between gypsies  
1365 and actual Romanians. They put all of us in the same po↓t. They don't say  
1366 that "Gypsies moved into a park in London and they have tents there." They  
1367 say (.) "Romanians moved there." And obviously if (.) if you don't know  
1368 the who:le situation between Romanians and gypsies when you read the  
1369 newspaper about that you actually get that impression that that is true and  
1370 then obviously when you see a Romanian you are not happy to see him  
1371 around or at your work p[lace] (.) or something.

1372 Henry: [mm] Is there a comparison that you  
1373 have noticed being in the UK: that would help make sense of why that is a  
1374 problem. So can you think of a difference in English or British culture  
1375 where we have different groups of people? Because it seems to me that  
1376 when you do see that sort of representation it is based on people just not  
1377 knowing that there is so much (.) There are lots of different people isn't  
1378 there that make up a culture? Have you noticed anything yourself? Like you  
1379 were saying about the accents before that you realised how different all the  
1380 different English speakers spo[ke like]. Can you think of any examples or- I  
1381 suppose I am trying to get your perspective on whether there is an  
1382 equivalence?=  
1383 Alexandru: [yeah ] In Romania you mean?

1384 Henry: =u:m In England.

1385 Alexandru: In England.

1386 Henry: You were saying about the gypsies and Romanians in Romania. Have you  
1387 noticed anything here? You don't have to have done I was just wondering  
1388 really?=  
1389 Alexandru: =No I was just thinking (.) no.

1390 (1)

1391 Henry: Because it is interesting isn't it when you are a member of a particular  
1392 culture and then people don't acknowledge that there is so much difference  
1393 within that culture.

1394 Alexandru: Yes. The only thing I can think of (.) is that all the taxi drivers are from  
1395 Pakistan (.) most of them [at least]. That is like a general knowledge but  
1396 that is not a bad thing.

1397 Henry: [yeah] it is a historical phenomenon really. When  
1398 the Commonwealth was sort of changed a lot of Commonwealth nations  
1399 like India and Pakistan they were able to come u:m (.) with much less  
1400 restrictions than they are (.) not that they are now but than they did  
1401 previously. But there were certain niches in the job market that they just  
1402 filled so yes taxi drivers (.) newsagents er (.) certain jobs just got filled. Yes

1403 (.) it is interesting you point that out because it is now associated with them.  
 1404 They sort of do that (.) that is just what t[hey do] yes. okay so (.) um: d- you  
 1405 (.) alluded to this earlier. do you feel like you have changed as a person then  
 1406 since moving here?

1407 Alexandru: [yeah] Yes (.) I think I did. First of all  
 1408 my English is a lot better. Then I have also become more confide<sup>↑</sup>nt and I  
 1409 also learned how to cook and how to wash and how to do loads of things  
 1410 which weren't done by me=

1411 Henry: =Yes (.) I suppose you are looking after yourself?

1412 Alexandru: Yes.

1413 Henry: Yes (.) so it allowed you a space then to discover all that stuff?

1414 Alexandru: Yes. Actually I think f- (.) personally for me I think it was better coming  
 1415 here because if I had been in Roma:nia probably my family would have sent  
 1416 me foo:d and (.) cleaning up in a small room with other people (.) I suppose  
 1417 I would have done it in the same way I am doing it here. But here I have to  
 1418 manage my mone:y (.) I have a certain budget and I have to stick between  
 1419 that budget and I had to find a job (.) u::m I also had to go open an account.  
 1420 If I was ever ill I had to go to the docto:r:s (.) there wasn't anyone to look  
 1421 after me: so all these things I think they sort of influenced.

1422 Henry: =mm And they have helped you=

1423 Alexandru: =Become more mature I guess.

1424 Henry: Yes. I suppose you'd see that process in a positive way then?

1425 Alexandru: Yeah=

1426 Henry: =You wouldn't see it as it has made your life more difficult?

1427 Alexandru: No: no=

1428 Henry: =Because you do not have your parents to do i[t for you]

1429 Alexandru: [Maybe at] the time it was  
 1430 difficult but it was for a good thing in the end.

1431 (.)

1432 Henry: I suppose (.) Yes. Well fingers crossed for the company having the money  
 1433 to employ [you I] suppose (.) that is what it is all going towards isn't it? um  
 1434 (.) u::h let's think. (1) s- so since moving then what sort of things would  
 1435 you say you have adapted to living here that you had to do (.) I don't know  
 1436 is there anything you have had to do differently since moving here? Like for  
 1437 example you were saying about learning to cook (.) have you had to learn to  
 1438 cook in different ways than what you would have been used to in  
 1439 Roma<sup>↑</sup>nia?=  
 1440 Alexandru: [yeah] =u:h Not really because you can find all the ingredients  
 1441 you would use in Romania (.) you can find them here as well. The thing I  
 1442 adapted is (.) food as in when you go out because I used to be quite picky

1443 and I still am quite picky and I didn't used to eat anything spicy or if it  
 1444 looked quite odd. Now I think I am quite over that anyway from most  
 1445 places.

1446 Henry: Can you think of anything that you have sort of thought (.) "I've ordered  
 1447 this and I'm not sure if I want this?"

1448 Alexandru: =u:h Piri piri chicken for example=

1449 Henry: =Okay

1450 Alexandru: The first time I had it I cried (.) because it was so spicy.

1451 ((both laugh))

1452 Henry: Yeah (.) I mean I can't sta- (.) was it Nando's Piri Piri chicken type thing  
 1453 was it?=  
 1454 Alexandru: =No it was a Pakistani fast food I guess=  
 1455 Henry: =Because it is a terrible feeling isn't it when you don't realise how hot it is.  
 1456 Especially when it is like a little random independent place and you don't  
 1457 really know because you have never been to a place li:ke it. You order it  
 1458 and then it is (.) "I can't have this"=  
 1459 Alexandru: =And then first week when I came here (.) we had like a free meal from our  
 1460 accommodation (.) and we go:t bee::f with pea mash (.) peas mash and what  
 1461 else? And gravy and I found gravy absolutely horrible. But since then I  
 1462 started liking i:t=  
 1463 Henry: =Really? Oh that is so interesting because that is the same with me actually.  
 1464 I used to ha:te gravy when I was little but then as I have gotten older I have  
 1465 started to have it and it is the most horrible loo[king thing] isn't it? This  
 1466 brown thi:ng on your plate (.) all this brown water or whatever er (.) so I  
 1467 suppose now do you order Sunday Roasts and things like that?

1468 Alexandru: [yeah it is]  
 1469 =Yeah (.) sometimes yes.

1470 Henry: Yes (.) it is something that you would have? I suppose the gravy thing is  
 1471 ((laughter))=  
 1472 Alexandru: =I am alright with it now (.) yeah

1473 Henry: Yes (.) oh okay. So as you say you still cook Romanian food and you are  
 1474 quite happy to have that as part of=  
 1475 Alexandru: =Yeah

1476 Henry: Yes. And is that something (.) Because you say you lived with.=  
 1477 Alexandru: =with other Romanians

1478 Henry: Yeah (.) d- you er do you cook dinners together or do you just sort of tend  
 1479 to just do your own thing? Cos you said you were really busy now=

1480 Alexandru: =Yea:h (.) at the moment yeah (.) At the moment I actually don't really  
1481 cook- because I don't really have time (.) Today I left at 10:00 am and I  
1482 haven't been home since then=

1483 Henry: =Gosh.

1484 Alexandru: um (.) but I used to. One of my flatmates is my best friend so we used to  
1485 cook together for our second year and most of our third year (.) Because  
1486 during this year I was doing the washing (.) he was doing the cooking or the  
1487 other way round. And it was a lot easier=

1488 Henry: =Yeah (.) saved time?

1489 Alexandru: Yes.

1490 Henry: I suppose also it must be nice then to keep that link with home as well to  
1491 have something that you would have had at home?=-

1492 Alexandru: =We weren't really cooking that many Romanian dishes to b[e honest     ]  
1493 Henry: [Oh weren't] you?

1494 Alexandru: No (.) we were just looking up recipes on the internet=

1495 Henry: =And I suppose it was things like pasta and stuff that would be easy to do  
1496 as well?

1497 Alexandru: =ye↑ah (.) Yes (.) at the beginning yeah. My friend is really good at  
1498 cooking so we tried all sorts of things=

1499 Henry: =You did the cooking? ((laughter))=

1500 Alexandru: =Yes (.) we started off with pasta and we did other stuff as well.

1501 Henry: Yes. Because it- it is quite a nice time I think when you are living with  
1502 flatmates at uni you can (.) you can all muck in together and as you say you  
1503 can share dinners and all that sort of thing. erm (.) So (1) if you are happy to  
1504 I am quite um (.) happy with what you have said so far. I am just wondering  
1505 whether I can get a few more general discussions going about as far as the  
1506 UK goes (.) um (.) as I am quite sure you are aware of living here (.)  
1507 immigration is seen as this sort of like horrible s[ubjec]t that we just can't  
1508 talk about. And I suppose I am just interested in how you have understood  
1509 this since you have moved he↓re. How you have made sense of it really. So  
1510 um (.) I suppose the first thing I would ask you is what are your general  
1511 impressions? If you ever put the telly on or if you ever put the news on is it  
1512 something that you feel like (.) "Oh again?" Or is it something that you  
1513 think (.) "Oh it's important we talk about this?" I don't know (.) what sorts  
1514 of thoughts do you have?

1515 Alexandru: [yeah] Well now: there  
1516 isn't that much of a discussion about immigration (.) at least I haven't seen  
1517 any major subjects but it used to be before the work permits things. And I  
1518 like you said after a while got to the point where I was like (.) "Not again."  
1519 Because they were on and on and on (.) about the same thing and there  
1520 wasn't any point in it anyway (.) they would just have to wait (.) those were



1521 the regulations (.) they would have to accept them and they did accept them  
1522 in the end. And it turned out that it wasn't as bad as they were expecting it  
1523 anyway. I think they are making a big fuss out of the whole immigration  
1524 thing because it's a subject (.) quite a sensible subject and the politicians at  
1525 least they try to: to get votes out of this by saying they are going to li↑mit it  
1526 or they are going to forbi↑:d it or stuff like tha↓t. I don't know why some  
1527 people want that because in the end: I personally believe it is a good thing  
1528 as long as it is controlled and people don't take advantages of the good  
1529 things like the social (.) support you get here. But yeah (.) in the end I think  
1530 it brings a lot of (.) money into the economy. Even if people just come to  
1531 study here and then go back (.) after all they spend money on tui::tion fees  
1532 (.) on food (.) on going out (.) everything here=

1533 Henry: =Yes (.) y- you are really good example of that because you could have  
1534 stayed in Romania and it wouldn't have been=

1535 Alexandru: =Yes (.) it would have been a lot cheaper

1536 Henry: Yea:h (.) And then you have come and you have studied and you have lived  
1537 in accommodation that is four times the price that we have ((laughter)) and  
1538 (.) yea:h (.) I suppose the sums do add up in that instance don't they? (1)  
1539 u:m (.) So I suppose um (.) the question you sort of hinted at- is something  
1540 that was hinted in your answer there (.) is about it being controlled. Is it  
1541 something that- do you think that someone's ability to mo:ve shoul- it  
1542 should and can be a right? Like in the EU we can move around now (.) is it  
1543 something that shou↓ld be a right or do you feel like we should be more  
1544 controlling on how people move about?

1545 Alexandru: I think people should be allowed move to different countries (.) not move to  
1546 visit other countries and if they want to move at their own expense (.) to be  
1547 allowed to move at their own expense. But if they want to come here and  
1548 [s- work] er: I think there should be some sort of work permi:t but it coul-  
1549 should be: something that should be easily obtained by anyone who wants it  
1550 (.) as long as they meet those c- countries crit[eria] (.) because like with the  
1551 gypsies they came here to steal. I think that could have been a bit more  
1552 controll:ed than how it is at the moment.

1553 Henry: [mmm]  
1554  
1555 [mmm] Can you see a  
1556 situation then where it is not necessarily how much money you have got in  
1557 your ba:nk but your willingness to work and all those sorts of things then?  
1558 Do you think it should be based more on trying to assess whether people  
1559 want to contribute?=  
1560 Alexandru: =Yes (.) I think it should be assessed on what that person will contribute to  
1561 that society. Because if I come here and I *am* going to stay here and in the  
1562 end I am going to pay tax:es and maybe I am going to have my own family  
1563 he↓re so those are beneficial things to the country after all. While if I just  
1564 come here and then just steal off people and scam people for a month and  
1565 then I lea[ve (.) t]hat's wrong obviously. (1) But I don't think that they  
1566 should limit like health benefi:ts and stuff like that=

1567 Henry: [mmm] =You don't think they should?

1568 Alexandru: They shouldn't because (.) tho↓se things are vital things. So if you come  
1569 here to visit and you get si:ck (.) obviously you should get (.) medical (.)  
1570 support=

1571 Henry: =So when you say about the idea of you staying here and having a family  
1572 (.) and becoming a part of the cul:ture. Do you feel like there is sort of a  
1573 line then where (.) talking about social security and things like that it just  
1574 becomes unhelpful because in that instance do you feel that you should be  
1575 entitled to that support?

1576 Alexandru: Yes (.) obviously if I have been working for fi:ve years and I have been  
1577 paying taxes for five years obviously I should be entitled to medical [stuff]  
1578 (.) even if they decide to change the regulations about visas and (.) other  
1579 things like that.

1580 Henry: [mmm] Yes  
1581 (.) it is a [very]

1582 Alexandru: [It's a] tricky subject=

1583 Henry: =It is tricky isn't it (.) u::m (.) but I suppose it is about fairness ultimately  
1584 and what actually counts as fair because it just seems to me (.) at least from  
1585 my perspective that some of this stuff is inherently unfair that somehow (.)  
1586 where you are born is just so important isn't it as to what you are entit[led  
1587 to]. It is so strange isn't it? It is not based on what you have contributed it  
1588 is based on what your passport says. It is weird isn't it? It is weird but then I  
1589 get (.) I study it all day long so I suppose I do end up just thinking (.) "What  
1590 does it mean?" (.) Another question I want to ask is- I don't know how  
1591 much you know about Margaret Thatcher?

1592 Alexandru: [yeah] u::h I think she was the Prime Minister for a very long time (.)  
1593 right?

1594 Henry: Yes (.) she is quite a big (.) uh political sort of embl[em ye]ah in Britain.  
1595 And something that she is famous for (.) is for saying that (.) er "A  
1596 European identity can't exist because everyone that's in Europe will only  
1597 ever be able to say you know (.) I'm British (.) I'm French (.) I'm  
1598 Romanian (.) I'm German." I am just wondering I suppose how you relate  
1599 to being European (.) whether that's something that feels personal to you?  
1600 um (.) because obviously that is something that is part of how (.) with all  
1601 the rules that have been lifted (.) you know (.) all these things that we can  
1602 now do: and our countries are getting ever closer aren't the↑y? Whether  
1603 something like 'European' is it important to you?

1604 Alexandru: [figure] u:h (.) No (.) not  
1605 really. I guess it is important when you go to Ame↑rica for example or  
1606 Canada. I have been to Canada last year and when they were asking me  
1607 where I am from and I was saying 'Romanian' (.) I saw in their faces that  
1608 they weren't really sure where it wa↑s on the [map] And I was always  
1609 saying (.) that "I'm from Europe but from Romania." An:d (.) I was always  
1610 mentioning Europe. So: (.) I guess in that sense it is important to have the

1611 European identity but (.) when you are he↓re in a European country (.) I  
 1612 don't think it really matter s (.) because after all I don't know how close (.)  
 1613 even now the borders are free and you can go to any country and study  
 1614 there or work there or just mo:ve there e::r after all every country still going  
 1615 to have their own traditions (.) their own cus:tons and most people are  
 1616 going to stick to [tho↓se]. so (1) Withi:n Europe I don't have a sense of  
 1617 being European (.) I have a sense of being Romanian.

1618 Henry: [mm]  
 1619 [mmm] I suppose it is more um (.) using to signpost a general part  
 1620 of the world that y[ou ar]e from- a continent rather than some sort of ideal  
 1621 or value?=  
 1622 Alexandru: [yeah] =Yeah. When you say that you are  
 1623 European it doesn't really define you more than (.) at least in my  
 1624 perspective that more than that you are from the actual continent 'Europe'=  
 1625 Henry: Yeah (.) yeah that's fair enough because it is something that with all of this  
 1626 EU stuff it is seen as (.) as far as all the actual laws are concerned it is like a  
 1627 se↑cond layer of citizenship (.) that we are British or Roma↑nian or French  
 1628 or whatever (.) then we are European. I suppose it is just interesting to get a  
 1629 sense of whether that is important to people that are moving around=  
 1630 Alexandru: =When you say that you are European it doesn't really say that much about  
 1631 you besides the fact that you are from Europe.  
 1632 Henry: Yes (.) you can't argue with that can you? ((laughter)) What else can I ask  
 1633 then? u:m (.) something I suppose I would just like to get a bit more  
 1634 discussion on is I don't know how much longer you have got?=  
 1635 Alexandru: =Oh it's fine (.) don't worry.  
 1636 Henry: This will probably be one of the last questions really. You talked about how  
 1637 moving here (.) it is really important that you spoke the language and you  
 1638 have contributed and you have supported yourself. Is this something as a  
 1639 value that you think whenever we move around we should try and adapt to  
 1640 the new environment and try and support that?  
 1641 Alexandru: Yes (.) obviously. So there are people from different countries who come  
 1642 here and then they just form their own small community and they don't  
 1643 really interact or they don't rea↑lly adapt that countries customs: or  
 1644 traditio:ns. And they actually judge people for doing Halloween or stuff like  
 1645 that. So I don't agree: with that. When you come to a country I think you  
 1646 should obey their ru↑les and you should as much as possible get used to  
 1647 their traditions and the way they are (.) on a daily [basis] because we are so  
 1648 different (.) like every country's so different. And even within a country  
 1649 people are very different (2) you can't (.) expect people to change because  
 1650 you came here. You obviously came to a country where those customs were  
 1651 there for years and y[ears] and you need to get used to them. Because after  
 1652 all you came here (.) you went to that country (.) they didn't come to you=  
 1653 Henry: [mmm]  
 1654 [mmm] =And do you feel like you have u:m

1655 managed to do that quite successfully then in how you've your life has  
1656 evolved here (.) that you have been able to make that transition?=  
1657 Alexandru: =Yeah (.) I guess so (.) yeah. I have definitely obeyed all the rules here  
1658 ((laughter)) and (.) I got used to like the British lifest:yle and how they go  
1659 and that if you stay in a queue you don't get angry (.) you just stay there  
1660 and wait patiently ((laughter)) and you're still polite to the person in front  
1661 of you=  
1662 Henry: =Yes. Is there anything in queuing in Romania? Is there a particular=  
1663 Alexandru: =Yeah (.) people absolutely hate it because before 1990 when we were a  
1664 communis:t country↑ they (.) people used to queue up to get oil (.) like  
1665 cooking oil or sugar: and that stuff and they had to queue for hours. So they  
1666 don't really understand the concepts of queuing and they absolutely hate it.  
1667 And if you go to Romania and if people stay in a queue for a long time they  
1668 become angry and (.) grumpy  
1669 Henry: Right. And it feels like it is part of that (.) almost a reminder then of the  
1670 time when you had to queue up for everything.  
1671 Alexandru: Yes (.) I think for them it is a reminder.  
1672 Henry: Yes. Because of course it wasn't that long ago was it? What was it '91?  
1673 Alexandru: It is 20 something years.  
1674 Henry: 20 something years now?  
1675 Alexandru: 24 years.  
1676 Henry: And that was since (.) I can't remember his name now.  
1677 Alexandru: Ceausescu.  
1678 Henry: yes (.) since the dictator was=  
1679 Alexandru: =Yes (.) he was killed.  
1680 Henry: Yes. So (.) I mean how old are you?  
1681 Alexandru: I am twenty two.  
1682 Henry: Twenty two (.) oh the same age then. So I suppose it is som[ething that]  
1683 Alexandru: [Oh really?]  
1684 Henry: =Yeah. So it is something that (.) we were just born when it was all  
1685 happening and you have I suppose grown up as it was changing?=  
1686 Alexandru: =Yes (.) it was a transition period right after I was born to 1998 (.) yeah  
1687 Henry: and how um (.) do you feel that has um (.) had any effect on how you have  
1688 decided to see not just your career and moving about but also how you see  
1689 your education. Is that something that at least in your family (.) the way  
1690 they have talked about is it something that they have valued for you?

1691 Alexandru: yeah (.) this transition period actually influenced me from an education  
1692 perspective because um (.) every year they change stuff in Romania. They  
1693 change how exa<sup>ms</sup> are (.) they change the curric[ulum (.) they change  
1694 everything]. And it is so:: annoying because you start off thinking that (.)  
1695 “Right at the end of the eighth year I’m going to take a test which is (.) on a  
1696 certain structure.” But at the end of the eighth year typically=

1697 Henry: [that sounds like the UK to be  
1698 honest] =It doesn’t work (.) it has all changed (.) “What we’re not doing  
1699 it?” ((laughter))

1700 Alexandru: Even since I finished High School (.) they’ve changed the Baccalaureate  
1701 exam at least twice I think in three years (.) So they keep experimenting at  
1702 our expense=

1703 Henry: =To try and get this perfect system (.) to try and [catch up I suppose]

1704 Alexandru: [Because there is li]ke this image  
1705 of UK and Nordic countries that they have a very good educational system  
1706 and everything is perfect and everyone is happy. Which is not totally true  
1707 but obviously it is much better then what we have but they are trying to get  
1708 to a perfe:ct system which is never going to happen obviously

1709 Henry: But they are trying it too fast I suppose. Is that sense that=

1710 Alexandru: =They don’t wait to see the results of what they did. If they don’t come in a  
1711 year they change it again.=

1712 Henry: =Yes (.) so they are getting results for about ten different things they have  
1713 tried ((laughter))

1714 Alexandru: They have changed the way the Baccalaureate (.) which is at the end of  
1715 High School (.) the= it’s structure. I think they changed it five or six years  
1716 ago and uh: (.) right after they changed it about fifty five percent of the  
1717 candidates failed=

1718 Henry: =Wow (.) fifty five percent?

1719 Alexandru: Yes (.) because every year- and that time they changed it in a good way  
1720 because they introduced cameras in all the classrooms where they were  
1721 taking exams=

1722 Henry: =So they can’t cheat?

1723 Alexandru: Yes (.) so they couldn’t cheat. Because cheating is a very important thing to  
1724 Roma<sup>n</sup>ian students and after that things got better (.) because there were  
1725 way too many R- Romanians who had degree<sup>s</sup>. So we have way too many  
1726 accountants because everyone was doing accounting. It was really easy<sup>↑</sup> to  
1727 get into accounting (.) everyone was doing accounting. I think in the  
1728 university in Bucharest in the capital they were having three thousand  
1729 graduates every year so the market was obviously overflowing by  
1730 accountants and other subjects as well. Also er (.) in Romania it is mostly  
1731 public universiti:es (.) private ones aren’t thought of very well because

1732 some of them have done fraud by releasing diplomas for people who  
1733 haven't even shown up to lectures=

1734 Henry: =Oh yeah (.) false schools really. They are [just peo]ple paying to have a  
1735 piece of paper sent them=

1736 Alexandru: [pay fees] =Yeah (.) exactly and they  
1737 get it in three years. (.) So ye:ah (.) in that sense it has changed for the  
1738 better. It is a lot fairer to people that (.) to students that actually study (.) it  
1739 is a lot more fair

1740 Henry: Are there any other ways that you can think of- In your family is it  
1741 something (.) the Communist period and the sort of (.) I don't know what  
1742 you would want to call it (.) what would you want to call it (.) [the  
1743 democratic] time? Marketised (.) you know (.) whatever. Is it something  
1744 that your family talk about in different ways?

1745

1746 Alexandru: [Yes marketised] Yea:h so  
1747 the dura:tion of family members which are the same age as my father which  
1748 is like about 40 they li::ke the current system and they really enjoy being in  
1749 it and the way it works. Whi::le I have relatives who are like seventy or  
1750 even eighty and they keep cry::ing about the ol:d system because they were  
1751 bett- better in the old system. Because back then when you graduated from  
1752 Hi↑gh School you would have had your own apartment straightaway and  
1753 the job. So everything was secu↑re while no↓w (.) after you graduated it  
1754 doesn't mean that you will get a job. You will actually have to work for  
1755 that=

1756 Henry: =right (1) And is it something (.) I mean you were saying about how much  
1757 it cost to rent in Romania (.) er house prices do they reflect that as well?=

1758 Alexandru: =Yeah (.) they are a lot cheaper.

1759 Henry: A lot cheaper?

1760 Alexandru: Probably a house that you would paid here about two hundred thousand (.)  
1761 you would pay in Romania about seventy thousand

1762 (2)

1763 Henry: So (.) it's quite a realistic option that you would buy property back in  
1764 Romania if you couldn't find a job to get (.) a house here then?=  
1765 Alexandru: =Yeah (.) well then again=

1766 Henry: =But that is not your older relatives see it (.) they see it as 'it is even more  
1767 expensive than when we were younger'=

1768 Alexandru: Yea:h (.) obviously. But if you compare prices to- to UK in Romania  
1769 everything is really (.) really cheap.

1770 Henry: It is interesting isn't it (.) because you uh have got so many different (.) you  
1771 know all the history that helps inform how a country works. And you were

1772 saying how your different family members see it (.) Do they ever say  
1773 anything to you (.) you know when you are on the phone to them about  
1774 what you have been doing or whatever (.) do they ever make any jokes  
1775 about you living here or how much you have chan:ged or=

1776 Alexandru: =No (.) the only thing is that the old ones are complaining and they are like  
1777 (.) “Oh my God you’re there and you’re all alo↓ne with foreigners.”

1778 Henry: Really? [aww]

1779 Alexandru: [Yes] that is their general idea that everyone’s really colLd and  
1780 dista::nt.

1781 Henry: [yeah but then what do you say]

1782 Alexandru: [It is not true. No matter how m]any times I explain that (.) that is not true  
1783 they’re- It is like a concept in their minds because I think that was the  
1784 concept when they were under Communi↑sm so they can’t really get over  
1785 that.

1786 Henry: Oh yes (.) yes I suppose it would be. They were all (.) “You shouldn’t talk  
1787 to any of them (.) they’re bad people type thing.” aw (1) So I suppose no  
1788 amount of persuading from you (.) “It’s nice (.) honest I li↑ke it.”=

1789 Alexandru: =No (.) it is not going to work.

1790 Henry: No. I suppose what will it take (.) you graduating? Will everyone come  
1791 o↑ver when you graduate or will you just=

1792 Alexandru: =Yeah (.) I am hoping so.

1793 Henry: Hoping so. Yes (.) it is just when they are getting their flights isn’t it? (1)  
1794 Because that will be quite a proud moment then for a lot of you family  
1795 won’t it?=  
1796 Alexandru: =Yeah (.) obviously yeah.

1797 Henry: Has anyone else in your family gone to uni in Roma↑nia or is that the sort  
1798 of thing=

1799 Alexandru: =From my immediate family (.) no. So my father and my mother didn’t go  
1800 to uni they have just High School. On my mum’s side her sister’s husband  
1801 went to uni (.) he is a Medic and then their son is a Medic as well. er:: But  
1802 that is pretty much it. I have family members who are my age who went to  
1803 uni like in the old days they didn’t really go to uni=

1804 Henry: =No.

1805 Alexandru: It was a lot harder in the Communism period because there weren’t that  
1806 many universiti:es and it was very competitive (.) very (.) very  
1807 competitive=

1808 Henry: =Yes (.) I shouldn’t imagine there were many places and then even what  
1809 you learnt was probably (.) I don’t know what was it (.) a degree in how to  
1810 fit into the Party?=  
1811

1811 Alexandru: =Yeah.

1812 Henry: And how to help run the Party I suppose would have been=

1813 Alexandru: =And also the degrees were changing (.) as far as I know at least and as far  
1814 as I heard (.) the degrees were changing and adapting to the market. So they  
1815 would have unlimited number of places for accountants (.) if they did need  
1816 accountants and more for Medics if they needed Medics.

1817 Henry: But it seems that they got the accounting thing wrong from what you were  
1818 saying earlier=

1819 Alexandru: =Yes.

1820 Henry: there are just too many accountants.

1821 Alexandru: Way too many. Because now they don't really care about the market or if  
1822 those people actually can get employed afterwards (.) they just want the  
1823 money=

1824 Henry: =mm if you want to do it that is your problem.

1825 Alexandru: Yes (.) exactly.

1826 Henry: Yes (.) very similar to here to be honest. I mean the most- I don't know  
1827 what it is like u:m (.) at Sheffield but our employability percentage is this  
1828 (.) as though you know that (.) it spea[ks for itself doesn't it?] Yes (.) within  
1829 six months they found a job (.) you have got no problem (.) even though  
1830 they don't say what jobs you have gone into. You have probably not gone  
1831 into anything related to what you've studied but uh (.) I shouldn't imagine it  
1832 is what will be your case because how long have you been working at the  
1833 job that=

1834 Alexandru: [Yeah advertise yeah]

1835 Alexandru: =My current job is six months.

1836 Henry: Six months.

1837 Alexandru: But I have been working in a different job for another year.

1838 Henry: And what were you doing in that other job?

1839 Alexandru: u:h (.) I was an IT assistant.

1840 Henry: IT assistant.

1841 Alexandru: Yes (.) for the uh English Language Teaching Department at the  
1842 universi↑ty. I was just helping out their technical officer and computer  
1843 staff- like installing programmes and helping out people who use Word or  
1844 Exce:l=

1845 Henry: =Oh okay (.) right. Because it seems like you are very tech minded.

1846 Alexandru: Yeah.



1847 Henry: You must have found it very funny when I was playing with the recorders  
1848 and I was like trying to get it to work.

1849 Alexandru: I was actually thinking that at my previous job we used to have one of  
1850 tho↓se.

1851 Henry: What (.) this particular recorder?

1852 Alexandru: Yes.

1853 Henry: Yes (.) I don't know how old it is (.) I mean it is=

1854 Alexandru: =It seems ancient.

1855 Henry: I can't comment (.) I couldn't possibly comment. It is (.) it is something  
1856 that. I think it is part of the research thing uh (.) but you are really conscious  
1857 that (.) your technology's working and everything is- it becomes quite  
1858 obsessive but I suppose I think yeah (.) you sound much more tech minded  
1859 than me. You say (.) "Oh yes I just help design Android stuff and it's all (.)  
1860 it is a language isn't it=

1861 Alexandru: Yeah

1862 Henry: Being able to speak with the codes and the programming as well yeah (.) I  
1863 suppose you speak three languages in that sense then don't you?=  
1864 Alexandru: =More than that (.) yes.

1865 Henry: You speak more than that anyway?

1866 Alexandru: No (.) I speak Romanian and English and then I know other programming  
1867 languages.

1868 Henry: Other programming languages (.) yeah. aw (.) Well I think I have more or  
1869 less covered everything and I am also conscious of time. We have been  
1870 talking for about three quarters of an hour now so (.) Is there anything else  
1871 you would like to say or anything else you would like to tell me about that I  
1872 have not asked? um (.) I don't know what you were expecting with the  
1873 interview so I suppose=

1874 Alexandru: =I don't know what you are looking for exactly?

1875 Henry: Well it is simply I wanted to get a sense of how um (.) what your  
1876 experiences were of moving here (.) which you've talked about. Your  
1877 background and how you feel about your life in the UK. How you feel  
1878 about (.) we talked about (.) debates about immigration and how you  
1879 understand those and how you you know (.) So I suppose really it is just all  
1880 those things and it is not sort of like a coherent thing because I am just quite  
1881 interested in how you talk about your life and how it is unfolding for you I  
1882 suppose because it is something (.) as far as the literature is concerned (.)  
1883 there's not (.) we don't know a lot. We know a lot about Romanians in the  
1884 media but we don't actually know how Romanians living here (.) what is it  
1885 like for you guys? It is something we don't know as much about you know  
1886 (.) so it is something that=

1887 Alexandru: =There are people who don't enjoy it he↓re. I have a friend who is studying  
1888 in Surrey and she is going to graduate this year and she is going back.

1889 Henry: Is she?

1890 Alexandru: Yes. She didn't like it here (.) she didn't like the people. She thinks that  
1891 everyone is really col:d and she couldn't really adapt here.

1892 (1)

1893 Henry: mm so she has found the opposite to you then really.

1894 Alexandru: Yeah=

1895 Henry: =so that must be quite weird for you then?

1896 Alexandru: Yes (.) personally I don't really understa:nd it but I guess it depends on  
1897 what people you interact with and friends you manage to ma↑ke.

1898 Henry: And she is at Surrey Uni?

1899 Alexandru: Yes.

1900 Henry: Because I mean Surrey is quite up there as far as the uni's go (.) it is in the  
1901 middle of the countryside. I wonder if it is sort of (.) I don't know

1902 Alexandru: I heard it is a small city as well.

1903 Henry: Yes (.) it is not very big at all. So it could be that she has just not met many  
1904 people or of course the people at the uni um=

1905 Alexandru: =She said that she enjoyed the course and she really likes what she is  
1906 studying because she is doing Tourism Management (.) I think yeah (.) And  
1907 she even got a year in the industry but she still wants to go back. There is  
1908 another factor which I persona:lly think counts towards her decision that  
1909 fact that she has a boyfriend back ho↑me and they have been together for a  
1910 few yea↓rs now. So I guess that is a big factor.

1911 Henry: Is she thinking maybe about (.) starting her life with=

1912 Alexandru: =probably (.) yeah

1913 Henry: And what about you (.) if you don't mind me asking? Is that something that  
1914 is a factor for you in staying here or moving back home?

1915 Alexandru: Well I didn't have anyone before coming here so I wasn't really attached to  
1916 Romania from that perspective and I don't really have anyone there now or  
1917 here now so I am like (.) free to move aroun:d=

1918 Henry: =Yes (.) so I suppose yes you feel like=

1919 Alexandru: =It is easier to make decisions.

1920 Henry: It is (.) yes (.) easier not having to think about all that oth:er stuff as well (.)  
1921 yes. Yes (.) I think you have hit the nail on the head with your friend (.) that  
1922 is definitely=

1923 Alexandru: =Yeah (.) it is quite a big factor.

1924 Henry: Yes and you say she doesn't talk about it very much as a thing?

1925 Alexandru: No (.) not really.

1926 Henry: That is interesting because all those other things seem like (.) "Well I don't  
1927 enjoy it and is this wrong (.) is that wrong." There is that big thing  
1928 actually=

1929 Alexandru: =When you don't enjoy it here and your heart is somewhere else obviously  
1930 you see all the bad: things.

1931 Henry: Yes but for you not having that root if you like allows you to think more  
1932 freely about (.) like what you were saying moving to Manchester or Leeds  
1933 or Birmingham or London or wherever (.) it ends up. That is the sort of  
1934 thing that (1) I suppose we don't hear a lot about when we think about  
1935 people moving around for different reasons (.) you don't think of it as erm  
1936 (.) because you want to (.) because it is actually part of (.) like you were  
1937 saying earlier (.) growing up and finding yourself. It is seen as you know (.)  
1938 "We'll move here and there's not enough houses and the countries going to  
1939 sink." That is what is all talked about and I suppose that is just something  
1940 that has just come out of your interview and it has been so nice listening to  
1941 it. Because it makes a change from what I normally listen to ((laughter))  
1942 Part of my research is interested in how the media and politicians talk about  
1943 immigration so (.) often it is all these sorts of like negative and resource  
1944 based arguments and it is always like (.) "We've got to be rational. We've  
1945 got to be practical. We've got to be sensible." I think it is balance isn't it?  
1946 So yeah (.) I mean I don't know if there is anything else you want to  
1947 mention? But if there is not then er (.) yeah I suppose I am quite happy for  
1948 us to stop here if you are happy to?=  
1949 Alexandru: =Yes (.) sure.

1950 Henry: Yes (.) okay then.

1951 Alexandru: =If there is something (.) I can email you.

1952 Henry: I suppose its um

1953 ((transcript ends))

### *Transcript 3: Felix*

1954 Henry: Right that's recording as well. (.) Okay. So: (.) that's yours (.) I've  
1955 got mine.

1956 Felix: This is mine?

1957 Henry: Yeah: so if you're happy (.) what I might do I might write a few  
1958 things whilst we're [talki]ng. er:: the schedule I've got really (.) it  
1959 just depends how the conversation goes. Obviously we were  
1960 talking quite a lot downstairs. It might be that we end up retracing  
1961 some of that throughout (.) if you're happy to talk over it again. I  
1962 suppose I'd like to start really (.) if you're happy to (.) talking a  
1963 little bit about yourself. Perhaps (.) where in Romania you are  
1964 from.

1965 Felix: [Sure] I'm from Galatz (.) this is my home town. It  
1966 resembles Sheffield because they do a lot of steelworks (.) the  
1967 industry of steel.

1968 Henry: Okay. There is industry.

1969 Felix: That's quite a good resemblance.

1970 Henry: Is there any particular name in Romania you give for it? Like (.)  
1971 Sheffield is known as the Steel City (.) isn't it?

1972 Felix: Yes.

1973 Henry: Is there a name that it's known for there?

1974 Felix: No (.) not for it. The guys at the football stadium (.) they named  
1975 themselves the Steel Boys.

1976 Henry: Really?

1977 Felix: Yes.

1978 Henry: Okay. So there is a bit of (.) for it? Is it a big town then?

1979 Felix: Not quite. It's an average town. It's not very small (.) but it's not the  
1980 biggest.

1981 Henry: No (.) okay. I can see what you mean by (.) it's like Sheffield. It's  
1982 not like London (.) but it's not a random=

1983 Felix: =Yes (.) exactly.

1984 Henry: Okay (.) then. How are you? Are you 20↑?

1985 Felix: Twenty one.

1986 Henry: Twenty one. So you went straight from finishing school to uni here  
1987 then?

1988 Felix: Yes.

1989 Henry: Yes. What about your family background then? Are you the first to  
1990 have gone to uni?

1991 Felix: No (.) I don't think so. My mum (.) I think she's got two degrees (.)  
1992 but I don't know much about that.

1993 Henry: No.

1994 Felix: I'm sure they've been to college and university and all that stuff.  
1995 But I don't know much about it.

1996 Henry: No. I suppose it felt quite natural to you as a possibility of going to  
1997 uni from school?

1998 Felix: Yes. It was like a must for me. I felt like this was the course of life  
1999 (.) going to uni. Because when I was in primary school (.) maybe  
2000 (.) I don't know (.) I can't remember (.) but my mum did the second  
2001 degree for her job.

2002 Henry: Right. I suppose there's a sense that that was the most logical step  
2003 for you to repeat what?=  
2004 Felix: =Yes. I would have felt guilty if I hadn't come to uni. She was still  
2005 working (.) she was taking care of me and she was going to uni.

2006 Henry: She was doing it all. She sounds like quite a woman then (.) really.

2007 Felix: Yes (.) she is.

2008 Henry: Yes. How does she feel about you coming to the UK to study then?  
2009 Did she talk to you about it?

2010 Felix: I like to think that she's proud. Yes (.) I think she is. My parents  
2011 are.

2012 Henry: Yes. Would you be able to tell me a little bit about the process  
2013 leading to your decision to come here? What sort of things were  
2014 you thinking about when you were thinking about uni?

2015 Felix: I wanted to do Psychology. I think it was easier for me to come to  
2016 England than doing Psychology in Romania. In Romania (.) how  
2017 can I say this (.) I learnt how to get into uni. Like (.) what to do. I  
2018 had to take an exam and my grades counted a lot. The option of  
2019 coming to England was much easier. Just the final year exam  
2020 counted for coming to England to study.

2021 Henry: I see. The entry requirements were lower to come to England then  
2022 as opposed to staying in Romania?

2023 Felix: Not lower (.) but they were easier. In Romania they're not as high  
2024 but there is a lot more stuff to do (.) like taking more exams and  
2025 studying more.

2026 Henry: Right. So you had to do much more to get into uni there?

2027 Felix: Yes. I like to think so now that I've come to England.

2028 Henry: Yes. It was quite a practical decision then (.) really?

2029 Felix: Yes. I like to think so. It was more practical. Also (.) it broadens  
2030 my horizon. When you go on a holiday and visit other countries it's  
2031 really not at all like actually staying in a country. Actually living  
2032 for long periods of time.

2033 Henry: How do you think that's different then? How would you describe it  
2034 as being different?

2035 Felix: You need to get a job. I haven't. I'm not proud of myself. I had a  
2036 couple of months ago (.) but it's my third year so I was thinking I  
2037 would get one in my first year. I'm not proud of that.

2038 Henry: Was that a conscious decision you made (.) once you got here and  
2039 you started your course (.) to not get the job then? It sounds like  
2040 you=

2041 Felix: =I tried to get a job (.) but when I saw it (.) nobody would call. I  
2042 just didn't think I'd get the job so I left it.

2043 Henry: That's fair enough. It was a matter of sending CV's out and then  
2044 receiving no feedback.

2045 Felix: Yes (.) and not having any feedback.

2046 Henry: Yes. That's fair enough. It's quite a difficult thing. Obviously (.) the  
2047 time when you would have been looking for a job that would have  
2048 been 2011/2012?

2049 Felix: Yes (.) 2012.

2050 Henry: Jobs aren't great are they?

2051 Felix: Yes.

2052 Henry: No (.) that's fair enough.

2053 Felix: Also (.) I think I'd do better if those employers would give me the  
2054 opportunity of having an interview with them (.) because that's how  
2055 I got the job this year. I got the job with G4S as an events steward.  
2056 It's fun. It's not really much money (.) but it's fun. You get to see all  
2057 the football matches.

2058 Henry: Yes (.) exactly. Yes.

2059 Felix: I like standing. I'm not much of a sitter.

2060 Henry: No. It must be hard to study then.

2061 Felix: Not quite because=

2062 Henry: =What (.) you just stand up (.) read (.) type thing?

2063 Felix: No. They don't call you. You get the opportunity to go wherever  
2064 you want (.) so that's absolutely brilliant.

2065 Henry: Because you are flexible then? You can work as much or as little as  
2066 is suitable.

2067 Felix: Yes (.) exactly. You cannot go to any events for three months (.)  
2068 until you get fired.

2069 Henry: I see. So they're trying to make sure that people don't take  
2070 advantage then?

2071 Felix: Yes. Even with all that (.) you don't get paid if you don't go to the  
2072 job. Also (.) with living here (.) abroad (.) you need to get your  
2073 own place. It's quite a difficult task.

2074 Henry: Yes.

2075 Felix: Yes. It's quite a difficult task.

2076 Henry: Did you go to a letting agent then?

2077 Felix: Yes.

2078 Henry: You looked online and↑?

2079 Felix: Yes. It's quite difficult if you don't have the financial support. It's  
2080 really difficult because we have to pay six months in advance.

2081 Henry: Six months?

2082 Felix: Yes.

2083 Henry: Wow.

2084 Felix: The second year we moved and negotiated a bit and we only had to  
2085 pay three months in advance. Then we had to pay each month.  
2086 When you first go to a letting agent (.) it's quite hard being a  
2087 foreigner.

2088 Henry: What sort of things made you feel that way when you were talking  
2089 to them?

2090 Felix: Because you are not living in England=

2091 Henry: =Having a permanent address (.) that sort of thing?

2092 Felix: Yes. Also (.) I can understand this (.) I'm not offended (.) I can  
2093 understand all those measures they take because there are bad  
2094 people that they don't want to work with.

2095 Henry: Okay. In terms of the UK (.) specifically then (.) was there a  
2096 language element to that as well? That because you're able to speak  
2097 English you↑?

2098 Felix: Yes. I was quite confident at first.

2099 Henry: At first?

2100 Felix: Yes (.) before coming to England. I was quite confident with my  
2101 English speaking. But then everything blew my confidence. All  
2102 these accents (.) In Romania (.) I think they put more accents on  
2103 studying American English not British English.

2104 Henry: Right. Okay.

2105 Felix: All these accents here in England made me rethink the whole thing.

2106 Henry: Did you find it quite difficult then when you first arrived?

2107 Felix: At first (.) yes. The first months or so. But then it felt maybe more  
2108 natural.

2109 Henry: Do you feel like your accent has perhaps changed then?

2110 Felix: Yes (.) a lot.

2111 Henry: You said about the American English. Were you coming (.) to  
2112 begin with (.) speaking with that accent?

2113 Felix: Yes (.) a lot.

2114 Henry: Yes. Did anyone say anything about (.) "Oh (.) you're American."?  
2115 Did anyone ask or did anyone think that?

2116 Felix: No. I felt I was speaking like a Russian immigrant (.) like that guy  
2117 from GDA.

2118 Henry: Oh yes.

2119 Felix: At first I felt like I was speaking like him (.) but then (.) with time  
2120 (.) I practised more.

2121 Henry: Did you just (.) as you were going along (.) just try and modify  
2122 how you were saying things?

2123 Felix: Yes.

2124 Henry: You didn't go to any English classes or anything like that?

2125 Felix: No. I tried to make friends and talk more.

2126 Henry: So you say you were consciously making an effort to try and=?

2127 Felix: =Yes.

2128 Henry: Yes. Would you say that's probably the best way (.) looking back  
2129 (.) to have done it then? Do you think that was a=

2130 Felix: =It is a way of doing it. I don't know if it's the best (.) but it was a  
2131 good way.

2132 Henry: It worked for you.

2133 Felix: Yes (.) it worked. A bit. I still stutter and I can't express myself  
2134 quite the way I would like to.



2135 Henry: Is like (.) you know the Romanian word but you're just trying to  
2136 think of the equivalent word?

2137 Felix: Yes (.) quite like that. Sometimes (.) even in Romanian I don't  
2138 know the word (.) so it's really hard.

2139 Henry: It must be hard (.) yes. What language?=  
2140 Felix: =Yes. Because (.) if I knew it in Romanian I would Google the  
2141 translation.

2142 Henry: It wasn't something you thought about going to any other country  
2143 in Europe to go to uni then? Like Italy or Spain where they speak  
2144 (.) I think it's a romance language like Romanian (.) isn't it?

2145 Felix: Yes. It's a Latin language like Spanish or Italian. I thought (.) I  
2146 already know English so that's the main thing.

2147 Henry: Yes. So it just made that easier.

2148 Felix: That's the main reason.

2149 Henry: Yes. I'm quite interested in this (.) what you're saying about your  
2150 decision to come to England. Was there anything in particular  
2151 about England that you had any ideas about before coming? What  
2152 you might have expected or things that you already knew (.) that  
2153 people talked about in Romania as what the British are like.

2154 Felix: Culturally or uni?

2155 Henry: Yes. In terms of culturally (.) but then the uni as well. What you  
2156 know about any of it.

2157 Felix: I didn't know anything about university here. I really always feel  
2158 like a lucky guy. I just always go along with things. I don't know  
2159 why (.) but it works for me. I feel quite lucky. Culturally (.) I didn't  
2160 expect much because when you expect things you always get  
2161 disappointed. I don't know why (.) but it's always like that. So I  
2162 didn't expect things to be in a certain way. I just came to England.  
2163 It was a cultural shock (.) but I got along. I just got along.

2164 Henry: Like you said (.) you tried to be laidback and just go with it.

2165 Felix: Yes. It was a shock because there are quite a lot of immigrants  
2166 here. I was hoping to meet more English people (.) British English  
2167 (.) and that was a bit of a shock for me. Even though I know there  
2168 are other ethnic groups that are English. They've established  
2169 themselves quite a long time ago here. I don't know (.) I still feel  
2170 like there are a lot of immigrants here. That was a bit of a  
2171 shock. If you know (.) the first Bulgarians and Romanians (.) I  
2172 quite understood their concerns. I was a bit offended because I'm  
2173 Romanian myself (.) but not as much as other Romanians were. I  
2174 understood a bit of the concerns around it (.) because as I have  
2175 already told you (.) there are a lot of immigrants here. A lot. Maybe  
2176 I'm not used to it living in Romania.

2177 Henry: So you were thinking (.) perhaps (.) that there might have been a  
2178 stronger British presence (.) I suppose?

2179 Felix: Yes. I feel like there is not a majority of English people. I feel like  
2180 there is 40% British English and then all those other ethnic groups.

2181 Henry: Do you think perhaps that (.) even though you say you've enjoyed  
2182 it (.) that perhaps you've not had the full English experience being  
2183 perhaps then?

2184 Felix: Exactly (.) yes. Maybe it's just that I was thinking more about posh  
2185 people.

2186 Henry: Once with the London=

2187 Felix: =Yes. Being at uni (.) you don't get the chance to meet all those  
2188 people. They have got their own group so you don't get the chance  
2189 to meet them.

2190 Henry: There remain (.) probably (.) some parts of life here that you've not  
2191 experience yet.

2192 Felix: Yes.

2193 Henry: Is it something that you would ever think about (.) after you  
2194 finished (.) if you managed to get a job here (.) that you would  
2195 think about staying?

2196 Felix: Yes. If I managed to get a really good paid job (.) a well paid job  
2197 (.) I would really consider moving to London (.) maybe (.) because  
2198 I've got a lot of friends there. Yes (.) I would consider moving (.)  
2199 maybe (.) definitely. I don't know (.) we'll see.

2200 Henry: Yes. I suppose you want to keep your options open and see what  
2201 happens when you finish. I suppose you want to get your degree  
2202 finished don't you?

2203 Felix: Yes. I work on what I have at the moment. I am a bit of a dreamer  
2204 (.) but I try to keep my head in what I've got at the moment.

2205 Henry: When you say you're a dreamer (.) what sort of ideas do you  
2206 perhaps have about where you might end up?

2207 Felix: I tend to aim high (.) really high. But then I also think I don't want  
2208 to be disappointed. So I don't know.

2209 Henry: Yes. Because there's a bit of a tension there (.) isn't there? If you've  
2210 said only about having expectations it can be difficult to meet  
2211 them.

2212 Felix: Yes. I don't know. What was your question again?

2213 Henry: In terms of what we were talking about right now?

2214 Felix: Yes.

2215 Henry: It was about what sort of ideas you've got about where you want to  
2216 be in the future.

2217 Felix: I really want to get a job that pays me well to do what I like. I like  
2218 sports a lot. I just want to get the opportunity to have my own  
2219 hobbies (.) I guess.

2220 Henry: So like what you're saying with the job that you're doing at G4S (.)  
2221 even though it doesn't pay as much (.) you like it that you can see  
2222 games and have=

2223 Felix: =Yes (.) exactly. At first I thought it is in the security sector so it  
2224 might be good for my CV because I am also doing the criminology  
2225 degree.

2226 Henry: Yes.

2227 Felix: But then when I see that I get to watch football matches it was so  
2228 much better.

2229 Henry: So it's got all the professional aspects and you get to watch  
2230 football?

2231 Felix: Yes.

2232 Henry: No (.) that's fair enough. You say you were playing football three  
2233 times a year earlier. Is it something that you would every think  
2234 about trying to go for that as a profession?

2235 Felix: Yes (.) I thought about it (.) but I don't know. I feel a bit too old to  
2236 start now.

2237 Henry: It's a very ageist sport (.) isn't it?

2238 Felix: Yes.

2239 Henry: You've got to get in there when you're 14 or whatever and then  
2240 keep going. Then once your leg breaks (.) that's it.

2241 Felix: At this time (.) I should have had my career (.) I don't know (.)  
2242 summer high=.

2243 Henry: =You wouldn't ever think about perhaps going back to Romania  
2244 and seeing if you could join the Romanian football team then?

2245 Felix: I would love it (.) but I don't see that happening. I would really  
2246 love it.

2247 Henry: Have you got a very good national football team? Is it a very good  
2248 one? I don't follow it personally (.) so I don't know.

2249 Felix: At the moment they are improving. I think they are better ranked  
2250 than England.

2251 Henry: They probably are. We're usually knocked out in the first round of  
2252 play (.) aren't we?

2253 Felix: Now (.) because they have been improving (.) I think they are in  
2254 the first 20 in the FIFA world ranking.

2255 Henry: How many teams are there in total in that ranking?

2256 Felix: All of them. All the national teams.

2257 Henry: Really? So 20 is pretty good then (.) if there are hundreds of  
2258 countries.

2259 Felix: Yes (.) it's really good. Yes. Back in the 90's they were like the  
2260 third team in the world.

2261 Henry: Third? Really?

2262 Felix: Yes. They could have won the '94 World Cup then.

2263 Henry: Why didn't they then?

2264 Felix: I don't know. It's just they didn't have the chance. I don't know.

2265 Henry: That's interesting.

2266 Felix: I haven't seen it because I was one year old at that time.

2267 Henry: Yes. That was in the 90's?

2268 Felix: Yes. In the '94 World Cup. You probably know Hagi.

2269 Henry: Right. Okay then. What about when you first came to the UK then.  
2270 Is there anything you can particularly remember about when you  
2271 first (.) You know this question about culture shock?

2272 Felix: Yes.

2273 Henry: Is there anything in particular that was really shocking to  
2274 experience?

2275 Felix: Yes. About this experience I've had?

2276 Henry: Yes.

2277 Felix: On the first days I got here (.) I went out with my friends. There  
2278 were five of us and we stuck together. We couldn't find the place.  
2279 We lived in a top hotel. In those days we tried to get used to  
2280 speaking English and get used to English people. We went to a  
2281 Starbucks to grab a coffee and the cashier asked me what I wanted.  
2282 I don't remember what he said because I didn't understand a word.  
2283 I was looking at him (.) "Are you speaking English?"

2284 Henry: Is that what you were saying about the English that you weren't  
2285 expecting because it was not what you had been taught?

2286 Felix: Yes. Maybe he had an accent (.) maybe not. I don't know. It was  
2287 that shock that struck me.

2288 Henry: How did that experience unfold then? Did they something  
2289 differently and then you got it? What happened from there then?  
2290 Did you ever get a coffee?

2291 Felix: Yes (.) I got one.

2292 Henry: You managed to get one.

2293 Felix: I don't know how. Maybe sign language.

2294 Henry: Okay.

2295 Felix: It's this joke between us Romanians that we get muscle fever from  
2296 talking with our hands.

2297 Henry: I've never heard that before.

2298 Felix: Yes. It's sign language.

2299 Henry: Yes (.) having to (.) Mind you (.) could it have been that Starbucks  
2300 have such a technical range of words they used to describe coffee?

2301 Felix: Maybe (.) yes.

2302 Henry: It's not straightforward when you go in and you ask for a coffee.  
2303 They say (.) "Well (.) we've got a whole selection."

2304 Felix: Yes.

2305 Henry: That's what they sell.

2306 Felix: Yes. Maybe (.) yes.

2307 Henry: It probably was made worse by that (.) wasn't it? I don't know what  
2308 to order when I'm in there. When they ask me if I want a Macchiato  
2309 or something (.) I think (.) "Just a coffee is okay."

2310

2311 Felix: Exactly (.) yes. But still (.) I didn't know what they said. It's like  
2312 the cashier said a whole phrase in just one word. I felt like that.

2313 Henry: Yes. So speaking more like German then because that's how the  
2314 German language works (.) isn't it?

2315 Felix: Yes.

2316 Henry: That's weird. Where did you end up living then in your first year?  
2317 You were saying you lived in a hotel at the beginning.

2318 Felix: Yes. After the hotel experience (.) we found a newly built student  
2319 accommodation. It was so new that it wasn't even finished when  
2320 we made the booking.

2321 Henry: You were quite lucky really then (.) to find it?

2322 Felix: Yes. They accommodated us for a week at a hotel because it wasn't  
2323 finished. We were quite lucky to find that student accommodation.

2324 Henry: Did your parents help you out when you first came and you didn't  
2325 have any accommodation? Did they help pay for the hotel?

2326 Felix: Yes. They did all my financial support.

2327 Henry: Yes. Something that's coming up a few times in these interviews is  
2328 that there is a financial side to coming to study here. It costs way  
2329 more than if you had stayed in Romania.

2330 Felix: Yes. Exactly. It is quite expensive living here (.) but you just have  
2331 to support the consequences.

2332 Henry: You moved into student accommodation. Was it like halls of  
2333 residence then? Was it a block of flats with different rooms in it?

2334 Felix: Yes. It was quite different from all the other student  
2335 accommodation. The other student accommodation (.) each student  
2336 has their own room and they share a kitchen. But we lived two per  
2337 room.

2338 Henry: You shared a room?

2339 Felix: Yes.

2340 Henry: Right.

2341 Felix: We didn't mind because we knew each other so we got along really  
2342 well.

2343 Henry: Yes. Is it a group of guys (.) all of you?

2344 Felix: Yes. That's why we don't mind.

2345 Henry: Yes. I can imagine that must be quite a thing. If you're living with  
2346 someone you don't know (.) quite a thing to get used to that.

2347 Felix: Yes. You can stay in a room by yourself (.) but it's much more  
2348 expensive.

2349 Henry: I suppose less fun.

2350 Felix: Yes.

2351 Henry: It's an experience. It's something that you wouldn't necessarily do  
2352 again (.) but it's something that=

2353 Felix: =Yes (.) it was fun.

2354 Henry: Yes. The guy that you were staying with (.) is he a student here as  
2355 well?

2356 Felix: Yes. He is now in his placement year. He's doing tourism.

2357 Henry: He's done an extra year then?

2358 Felix: He's in London at the moment.

2359 Henry: Is he?

2360 Felix: Yes.

2361 Henry: Do you miss him then? You probably don't see him as much if he's  
2362 on his placement.

2363 Felix: No. We talk. We've got this social group on Facebook.

2364 Henry: Yes. I suppose going from living with someone (.) in the same  
2365 room=

2366 Felix: =Yes. We've been classmates for eight years (.) so it's nothing.

2367 Henry: Yes. You get used to it.

2368 Felix: Yes.

2369 Henry: After living in that accommodation (.) you say you moved into (.)  
2370 Was it a house then you moved into?

2371 Felix: Yes. A flat.

2372 Henry: You moved starting from that house to a flat?

2373 Felix: Yes.

2374 Henry: That's when you lived with your girlfriend?

2375 Felix: Yes.

2376 Henry: Well (.) ex-girlfriend is it? Sorry.

2377 Felix: Yes (.) I don't know. Let's say ex for the moment.

2378 Henry: Yes. That was the start of your third year was it (.) when you  
2379 moved in?

2380 Felix: No (.) second year.

2381 Henry: Oh (.) you've lived there since then?

2382 Felix: Yes.

2383 Henry: Wow. How have you found going from student accommodation to  
2384 a mainstream flat then? Obviously (.) all your bills (.) it's all  
2385 separate then (.) isn't it?

2386 Felix: Yes. I thought it is so much better because it's all yours. In the  
2387 student accommodation we didn't have much of a kitchen so we  
2388 couldn't cook much. We really had a hard time with food. Eating  
2389 out is quite expensive here. If you do the groceries constantly (.)  
2390 it's not that much of a difference from the Romanian source. But  
2391 eating out is very different.

2392 Henry: What's been your experience of food then (.) while you've been  
2393 here? Have you tended to stick to the food that you know or have  
2394 you found that you've ended up trying lots of different things?

2395 Felix: Yes. So and so. I didn't try all of them. I found it very different that  
2396 English people eat beans for breakfast. We have beans for lunch  
2397 maybe.

2398 Henry: Yes. So some instances where you think (.) "That's a bit weird."

2399 Felix: Yes. style.

2400 Henry: You were saying it was a lot nicer for you when you moved into  
2401 this flat (.) to have a bigger kitchen?=  
2402 Felix: =Yes (.) because I could cook for myself.

2403 Henry: Yeah (.) something that you've er- were you good at cooking prior  
2404 to coming or is it something that you=  
2405 Felix: =Not qui[te (.) no]

2406 Henry: [You pi]cked it up along the way [then?]

2407 Felix: [Yeah I] picked it up.

2408 (1)

2409 Henry: I suppose it's that mum you were talking about i- she sounds like a  
2410 wonder woman being able to do everything (.) she probably did the  
2411 cooking as well.

2412 Felix: Yes. Back at home she would alwa:ys cook. I really hate wash[ing  
2413 the dishes because] I've never washed the [dish]es (.) back at  
2414 h[ome]

2415 Henry:  
2416 [((laughter)) ] [yeah] [yeah]  
2417 so it's something yeah (.) that you've had to=  
2418 Felix: =I can cook (.) I can make a mess. But I rea:lly hate cleaning it up.

2419 Henry: Is that something that your ex-girlfriend prefers to do? Does she  
2420 tend to do the cleaning?

2421 Felix: No: (.) we quit- fight about those t[opics]

2422 Henry: [Over] that topic.

2423 Felix: Yeah

2424 Henry: aw- (.) I think it can be a problem (.) can't it (.) you know when  
2425 you're trying when you both hate doing some[thing (.) it] just  
2426 doesn't get done then (.) does it?

2427 Felix: [Yes: yes] an::d I considered buying (.)  
2428 a dishwasher (.) but it's too much money (.) and like (.) I'm leaving  
2429 in a couple of months.

2430 Henry: mmm (.) so it would be something that you'd end up leaving behind  
2431 (.) probably.



2432 Felix: Yeah

2433 Henry: yeah (.) I want to- if possible go back to what you were saying (.)  
 2434 when we were at the coffee machine you were saying that you feel  
 2435 homesick now: rather than when you first ca↑me=

2436 Felix: =Yeah. I don't know why. Maybe it's just me (.) it's just the way I  
 2437 am. Because (.) at first (.) I really wanted to try the experience of  
 2438 (.) n- living by myself. I don't know if I err: (.) I feel homesick  
 2439 because (.) I don't live with my pa↑rents anymore. Maybe I just  
 2440 feel homesick because I've er:: got a lot of friends back ho↓me and  
 2441 I've really had a: (.) great time in the summer [holidays]

2442 Henry: [When y]ou go back h[ome]

2443 Felix: [Yeah]

2444 Henry: It sort of reminds you=

2445 Felix: =At least er this (.) this summer holiday (.) so.

2446 Henry: I suppose (.) when you fi:rst came you had all those other guys  
 2447 around [you] and it was the start of somet[hing] I suppose it might  
 2448 ha- distra↑ct away from feelings that you know [if you didn't have  
 2449 ] So when you go back to Romania then (.) will you move  
 2450 in back with your parents? Is that the plan? Could it be quite  
 2451 weird=

2452 Felix:  
 2453 [Yeah] [yeah]  
 2454 [It definitely does yeah] I don't  
 2455 know.

2456 Henry:

2457 Felix: =Yes. I don't plan on moving back with my parents. Definitely not.  
 2458 My mum er:: told me that they bought a flat (.) like a separate [one]  
 2459 (.) as a present. I don't know (.) er cos they found (.) they've got  
 2460 this offer (.) because (.) my mum er: works for this gentleman (.)  
 2461 that er made a generous offer so (.) they thought it was er (.) a good  
 2462 present for me. So they bought me=

2463 Henry: [wow] =so they  
 2464 invested in a flat?

2465 Felix: Yes.

2466 Henry: So you'll be going from this flat to er- (.) one back home=

2467 Felix: =yeah it's really nic::e. I've seen it like once this er (.) this summer  
 2468 and it's really nice. I would see myself living there but (.) I don't  
 2469 know if I want to (.) er: live back in my home town. Because there  
 2470 are not many opportunities for li- I dunno (.) a jo:b. I'm thinking I  
 2471 would be better starting my ow:n thing my own company (.) like er  
 2472 (.) being an entrepreneur=

2473 Henry: =What sort of thing can you see yourself doing?

2474 Felix: I don't know (.) I- I (.) really don't know. Maybe selling stuff (.)  
2475 products.

2476 Henry: Like a Dragon's Den type thing?

2477 Felix: Yeah (.) maybe: (.) I have to study the market ((laughter))

2478 Henry: That's always the thing (.) isn't it? You've got to find something  
2479 that will fit. If you want money from someone anyway (.) they'll  
2480 want to know that you've got a-

2481 Felix: co::s (.) I see a role model in my dad. so (.) he does this like. He  
2482 has this er business

2483 (1)

2484 Henry: So it's something that is modelled then (.) you can look to him and  
2485 think-

2486 Felix: Yeah.

2487 Henry: A bit like we were saying about your mum having the two  
2488 degrees=

2489 Felix: yeah=

2490 Henry: =They sound like quite an inspirational pair for you really.

2491 Felix: Yeah (.) they are.

2492 Henry: Like there's a lot to look up to.

2493 Felix: Yeah. They surely are.

2494 Henry: ye:ah (.) What about working with your dad (.) is that ever  
2495 something that you've thought about?

2496 Felix: well (.) He did throw this deal like (.) er::m (.) this summer like (.)  
2497 I went t- with him to a tennis competition (.) father and son time.  
2498 erm and uh- (.) I went to see the guys working at er (.) his business.  
2499 and er (.) he told me that (.) "Maybe someday you will work here.  
2500 You'll take care of my business" so=

2501 Henry: =What did you think to that then (.) when he said that?

2502 Felix: I don't know it er (.) it made me really happy (.) at that moment.  
2503 And now (.) I don't kno↓w. but er (.) I don't want to depend on that.  
2504 so (.) yeah=

2505 Henry: =I suppose (.) in the same way (.) it comes across that you think it's  
2506 nice that that's a possibility.

2507 Felix: Yeah. It's really nice to have that opportunity. But I don't want to  
2508 consider it as a possibility for the moment becau↓se (.) I think I  
2509 have other opportunities or possibilities.

2510 Henry: Like you say (.) becoming an entrepreneur and doing it all yourself.

2511 Felix: Yeah and also (.) this guy my mum works for (.) he's also close to  
 2512 my fa↑mily. amd (.) we go out for dinner and stuff. He's also been  
 2513 like a role model for me. He's also an entrepreneur. He's um (.) he's  
 2514 changed the profile of the work he does. Like (.) at first he was at a  
 2515 store (.) selling furniture. I don't know (.) I can't remember. Then  
 2516 (.) u:m (.) he had this store (.) in which he sold like (.) those bricks  
 2517 that (.) what do you call them? that you pave the streets with=

2518 Henry: =Yes (.) like sla:bs sort of?=  
 2519 Felix: =Yes. Kind of. Now he um (.) owns this (.) er private er:: (.) erm (.)  
 2520 hospital. Let's say hospital

2521 Henry: So he's into healthcare then?

2522 Felix: Yeah

2523 Henry: It is like what you were saying earlier about the doctor that you  
 2524 went to see in Romania (.) that's the sort of=

2525 Felix: =Yeah. I went to the um (.) uh (.) the state hospital=

2526 Henry: =Okay. You didn't go to a private place?

2527 Felix: No. Because they don't have that much stuff that they do at the  
 2528 state one. The regular local hospital.

2529 Henry: So when you say you're feeling homesick (.) is Romania (.) when  
 2530 you think of home (.) is that what comes to mind for you?

2531 Felix: Like?

2532 Henry: As far as when you think (.) "I want to go home (.)" that's what- is  
 2533 Romania home for you then (.) Whilst you're here it's not  
 2534 something that you've felt the same affinity to=

2535 Felix: =I don't know. Maybe I just want to be close clo↓ser to my family.  
 2536 Maybe. I feel like they've done a lot for me↑ (.) and I can get a  
 2537 chance to make it in Romania (.) I would definitely take that  
 2538 opportunity.

2539 (1)

2540 Henry: That's fair enough. At this point (.) you mentioned earlier (.)  
 2541 actually (.) about the Romanian and Bulgarian sort of (.)  
 2542 immigration thing that's been going on. I wanted to ask you a few  
 2543 questions about immi[gration a]s something that you see on the  
 2544 news and how you see it debated (.) um (.) as part of the interview.  
 2545 So I'd just like to start by asking you how do you fee- because  
 2546 obviously you've been here for two and a half years now (.) if you  
 2547 follow the news (.) and watch television you will have probably  
 2548 come across quite a lot of stuff (.) won't you? What are your  
 2549 thoughts on that?

2550 Felix: [Sure yeah] I felt that  
 2551 immigrants are not that welcomed (.) maybe. I don't know. It's just  
 2552 (.) what th[e me]dia gives. People (.) they don't seem to care that  
 2553 much. I mean I've had these er (.) tutors that have been really kind  
 2554 to me=

2555 Henry: [yeah] =mm it sounds like you're suggesting there is a  
 2556 mismatch between what the media think it is and what your  
 2557 experience of it has been being here=

2558 Felix: =Yeah. I don't know. I think (.) in my study years (.) I came to the  
 2559 conclusion that the media deceives people a lot (1) I don't know  
 2560 why but it seems that that's my conclusion.

2561 Henry: You don't have any thoughts then on why (.) perhaps (.) they would  
 2562 do that?

2563 Felix: Different interests. I mean its (.) there are some powerful people  
 2564 that want some things being done

2565 Henry: How do you feel about the labels that have been given then? like (.)  
 2566 you were saying about Romanian and Bulgarian (.) both nations  
 2567 were accepted into the EU at the same time. How do you feel about  
 2568 the idea that you're classed almost as one country when it's talked  
 2569 about? Is that something that's ever occurred to you?

2570 Felix: No not quite (.) they- (.) they did make it seem like they talk about  
 2571 immigrants (.) so I didn't mind that.

2572 Henry: Okay. What about um (.) when they say (.) sometimes it's used i- in  
 2573 place of that one (.) they say Eastern Europeans. Is that somethin-  
 2574 that.

2575 Felix: It doesn't bother me.

2576 Henry: It doesn't bother you?

2577 Felix: No.

2578 Henry: No. cos (.) some people can feel like there are connotations to  
 2579 come of these labels=

2580 Felix: =I kno<sup>↑</sup>w. Not all of them (.) but some people when you talk about  
 2581 being Romanian or being Eastern European (.) they: think about  
 2582 gypsies and travelle:rs and all that sort of [stuff]. But (.) I don't  
 2583 mi:nd. There are these people (.) they exist the<sub>↓</sub>re.

2584 Henry: [mmm]How do you feel- as a Romanian  
 2585 then are you happy with (.) um (.) the way that the media talk about  
 2586 Romanians as a whole [then]

2587 Felix: [Not] quite (.) but what can you do? ((laughter))

2588 Henry: In w- what way? Do you want to expand on that?

2589 Felix: well I've seen some uh:: (.) some like (.) reports (.) news uh  
 2590 reports that (.) er make this category of er gypsies. Instead of  
 2591 saying Romanians (.) they say gypsies (.) and that sort of [stuff]. I  
 2592 think er there are (.) like (.) certain people that do that. Not (.) I  
 2593 don't think we should generalise that people think Eastern  
 2594 European people are gypsies or something like that.

2595 Henry: [mm] And is it something that (.) I mean (.) if  
 2596 you- if you (.) if you had anything- if you had the stage and you  
 2597 had the opportunity to say something different (.) what sort of  
 2598 things would you say t- to dispute it? Is there anything that in  
 2599 particular you feel like they shouldn't speak about people in that  
 2600 [way] or that they should say instead

2601 Felix: [well] No (.) they shoulde erm (.)  
 2602 there are a lot of bad people (.) don't get me wrong. But they only  
 2603 talk about them. The media uh (.) its like (.) uh not reporting all the  
 2604 stuff that's going on. It's like reporting all the bad stuff it's not (.)  
 2605 focusing on the bad stuff. And also (.) there are a lot of Romanian  
 2606 people or (.) Bulgarian (.) other nations that er: (.) quite- have  
 2607 mad[e it]. They're quite important. They made something of  
 2608 themselves.

2609 Henry: [mm] so there is an untold story  
 2610 then?

2611 Felix: Yes.

2612 Henry: Like Felix who is at uni (.) who is now going to make his day in  
 2613 the world=

2614 Felix: =I'm a bit too small for this.

2615 Henry: I suppose (.) but you're one of those examples (.) aren't you (.) of  
 2616 people that are getting on a bit?

2617 Felix: Yeah. But I'm saying like (.) I've seen this er clip on YouTube (.) it  
 2618 was about Romanians. I think it was made by O2 (.) the er (.)  
 2619 phone company. And (.) it was this musician (.) Romanian  
 2620 musician (.) all of them were Romanians (.) that was teaching at  
 2621 London University. So that's quite big (.) that's quite [important].  
 2622 Also (.) there was this reporter that er (.) who worked for maybe  
 2623 BBC or I don't know who (.) that made a lot of stories erm (.) about  
 2624 Romanians in a good way (.) because she was Romanian. There  
 2625 was also uh (.) this bakery owner that had ur (.) her own like shop  
 2626 and did Romanian products (.) Romanian food. They seemed like  
 2627 role models (.) let's say.

2628 Henry: [mm: ]  
 2629 Is what you're saying (.) it's a nice thing to see a positive side?

2630 Felix: Yeah its (.) good to see people achieve something really important.  
 2631 That's the untold story. I've heard this um (.) debate on alcohol.  
 2632 Even with alcohol (.) the media uh misreports what happens

2633 because of the alcohol industry and because there is a lot of  
2634 interests. and because u:m (.) The alcohol industry er (.) funds the  
2635 organisations that should inform people about the health risks that  
2636 alcohol may ur (.) I dunno (.) may l- lead to. (1) so there was ur (.)  
2637 there was this report (.) this article that said the media (.) didn't say  
2638 anything ur (.) about deaths related to alcohol (.) which were about  
2639 two hundred and something. But covered all the stories about other  
2640 drugs that were much less (.) like two.

2641 Henry: Yes. So I suppose it's things like heroin (.) all the dramatic things  
2642 (.) they're reported. But then the biggest killer=  
2643 Felix: =Yes.

2644 Henry: It's the same with smoking (.) I suppose (.) as well.

2645 Felix: Yes. But there is a lot of conflict of interests. People in the alcohol  
2646 industry want to make their money. I think (.) if other drugs were  
2647 legalised or maybe alcohol was banned (.) it would be a different  
2648 story.

2649 Henry: Is that something you feel strongly about yourself then (.) about  
2650 legalising drugs? Just as a=  
2651 Felix: =I don't do much of it.

2652 Henry: Have you tried drugs before?  
2653 Felix: Yes (.) I have. I think of it as that period (.) when you're a teenager  
2654 and you need to be rebellious. You need to try new stuff. I've not  
2655 done serious drugs. I don't know. I tried it a bit.

2656 Henry: Yes. I can identify with that myself. You just go through phases (.)  
2657 don't you?  
2658 Felix: Yes.

2659 Henry: Sometimes (.) just even one phase (.) where you just tried it. I've  
2660 done it now (.) that's it.

2661 Felix: The thing is (.) you know there is always a guy that has cannabis or  
2662 something and says (.) "Let's smoke. Let's go there and smoke."  
2663 I've got these friends (.) but at the moment I usually refuse. I don't  
2664 feel like it.

2665 Henry: Is that because of where you're at in terms of doing your  
2666 dissertation and those things or is it just simpler than that?

2667 Felix: Maybe. Maybe unconsciously. I don't know (.) it just feels like I've  
2668 grown up.

2669 Henry: That's fair enough. It's a personal decision to do it (.) isn't it?

2670 Felix: Yes.

2671 Henry: It must be difficult (.) sometimes (.) in those situations. "Don't be  
2672 boring (.)" that type of thing.

2673 Felix: Yes. Also (.) I don't really like to be influenced by other people.  
2674 That's what happens when your friends have drugs or drink.

2675 Henry: Yes. You said earlier about being laidback when it comes to  
2676 thinking about settling in Britain and going along with it. Is that  
2677 something that also applies in a situation with your friends with the  
2678 drug situation then? There you're saying something different (.)  
2679 aren't you? Is it because you're with friends so you feel more  
2680 comfortable just saying no?

2681 Felix: I don't feel the pressure of the peer group (.) no. I just have my own  
2682 beliefs.

2683 Henry: Yes. You feel like you can say no to them.

2684 Felix: Exactly. I've got some good friends.

2685 Henry: Yes. It's an important thing (.) isn't it (.) that you can say no to  
2686 them?

2687 Felix: Yes.

2688 Henry: And not feel like there is a repercussion.

2689 Felix: We've got this group (.) and even some other friends say no if they  
2690 don't want to. We don't make a fuss about it. It's not that peer  
2691 pressure you hear all the time.

2692 Henry: When you were applying to the uni here (.) that would have been  
2693 2011 (.) is that right?

2694 Felix: 2012 (.) I think.

2695 Henry: 2012. It might have been going over into the New Year (.) I don't  
2696 know.

2697 Felix: It was the winter between 2011 and 2012.

2698 Henry: Yes. Did you have to apply for a student visa at the time?

2699 Felix: No.

2700 Henry: You just applied.

2701 Felix: Yes. Because we're also Europeans.

2702 Henry: Yes.

2703 Felix: It's about EU students.

2704 Henry: There was the transitional time (.) wasn't there? So you might have  
2705 had to=

2706 Felix: =Yes.

2707 Henry: You just brought in the European dimension. Do you think (.)  
 2708 looking back now (.) if you were (.) perhaps (.) doing the same  
 2709 thing again or if you're thinking about it just as a generic thing (.)  
 2710 do you feel like it's the right thing that people are entitled to move  
 2711 now whatever uni they want to go to in Europe? That that's  
 2712 something open (.) we can move up. Is that something you see as a  
 2713 good thing?

2714 Felix: Yes (.) I'm definitely for it. As I've said earlier (.) it's really good to  
 2715 see different place (.) to live in different places (.) not only see.  
 2716 Having that experience is just priceless.

2717 Henry: You feel like you'll be going back home to Romania (.) and you'll  
 2718 feel like you've benefited from that experience?

2719 Felix: Yes. You've gained this knowledge that's really important (.) I  
 2720 think.

2721 Henry: Have you spoken about this to anyone else English here (.) whilst  
 2722 you've been living here? Moving around (.) is that anything that's  
 2723 ever=

2724 Felix: =Not quite (.) no.

2725 Henry: No?

2726 Felix: No. I don't think so.

2727 Henry: I was just wondering (.) really (.) whether your experience is that  
 2728 that's how other people understand migration and moving around is  
 2729 a good thing. Whether that's been in your experience that=

2730 Felix: =I haven't formed an opinion on this.

2731 Henry: No?

2732 Felix: No.

2733 Henry: No (.) that's fair enough. I was putting you on the spot there (.)  
 2734 trying to think if you've ever had that conversation.

2735 Felix: Yes.

2736 Henry: It's a different perspective (.) isn't it?

2737 Felix: Yes. I've got pros and cons on this immigration topic.

2738 Henry: Do you want to expand on them?

2739 Felix: I think studying abroad is a really good thing. But when you've got  
 2740 this big influx of people that are migrating (.) I think it may be bad  
 2741 for the culture. You may lose some cultural values among this.

2742 Henry: Like what you were saying earlier when you came (.) you were  
 2743 surprised there weren't as many British people here.

2744 Felix: Yes. Exactly. That's what I meant.



2745 Henry: Yes. Do you feel like there is something about the British way of  
 2746 life that you've not been exposed to? Is there anything in particular  
 2747 that you think you should have been experiencing and it just  
 2748 doesn't feel like it's there anymore?

2749 Felix: I don't know. I can't possibly know what's there because I've not  
 2750 experienced what's there.

2751 Henry: Yes. I suppose that would sound silly. Not even perhaps as far as  
 2752 Romanian culture goes (.) that you knew what the British were like  
 2753 and then when you got here (.) it's like (.) "No (.) that's not what  
 2754 you're like. I can't even see that anymore."

2755 Felix: Maybe what you see in movies (.) that's where you make an  
 2756 opinion. I don't think I should have experienced anything else. I  
 2757 was expecting to see or talk or get in touch with more British  
 2758 people. But it's just the way it is.

2759 Henry: You would say then that moving here has changed how (.) well you  
 2760 said it's enriching the experience for you and you've got a lot out of  
 2761 it.

2762 Felix: Yes. It definitely was.

2763 Henry: Would you say it's changed the way that you see yourself?

2764 Felix: Yes. It definitely has.

2765 Henry: In what way has it changed then?

2766 Felix: I don't know. I feel like I've grown up. Before coming to England  
 2767 (.) I was only about getting out with friends (.) doing nothing (.)  
 2768 being a teenager. But now that I've come to uni (.) Maybe if I had  
 2769 done uni in Romania it would have been the same thoughts. But  
 2770 with this experience (.) living abroad (.) it's broadening my  
 2771 knowledge.

2772 Henry: It's certainly more dramatic (.) if anything (.) isn't it? Because even  
 2773 if you'd have had the same experience in Romania you wouldn't  
 2774 have had (.) probably (.) as many challenges.

2775 Felix: Yes.

2776 Henry: There would still have been challenges.

2777 Felix: Yes. Most of the people I know back in Romania don't like the uni  
 2778 life.

2779 Henry: Really?

2780 Felix: Yes. I've heard a lot of them dropped out of uni.

2781 Henry: Really?

2782 Felix: Yes. After the first year.

2783 Henry: Yes. What sort of things have they said to (.) was it your friends or  
 2784 you directly? What sort of things are they saying then as to why  
 2785 they dropped out?

2786 Felix: They're not friends (.) they're more like acquaintances. People I  
 2787 know.

2788 Henry: Friends of friends and that kind of thing.

2789 Felix: Yes (.) exactly. Stuff like that. I think they are a bit spoilt.

2790 Henry: They just couldn't hack it on their own and having to do everything  
 2791 themselves?

2792 Felix: Yes.

2793 Henry: Since moving here (.) do you feel like you've adapted quite well to  
 2794 the (.) Obviously you're saying about there not being as a strong a  
 2795 cultural presence here as you thought. But do you feel like you've  
 2796 fit in quite well whilst you've been here?

2797 Felix: Well I had to adapt. I don't know. I don't like I quite fit in this  
 2798 culture because (.) as I've already told you (.) people have this  
 2799 perception that on the weekend they have to go out and drink. I  
 2800 don't feel like it.

2801 Henry: So you don't feel l↑ike=

2802 Felix: =I feel like I don't belong. Those are my thoughts.

2803 Henry: So (.) as a Romanian (.) you don't feel like you don't belong (.) it's  
 2804 more that you just=

2805 Felix: =It's just the culture (.) yes. It's not that I'm Romanian and I will  
 2806 meet English or other cultures.

2807 Henry: It's more to do with sorts of things people end up doing?

2808 Felix: Yes.

2809 Henry: Then again (.) you like to go to the football (.) don't you?

2810 Felix: Yes.

2811 Henry: It's that sort of thing that's a commonality (.) isn't it?

2812 Felix: It's quite expensive to buy a ticket here. I've never been to a  
 2813 football match paying for my own ticket. I've just worked.

2814 Henry: Yes. It is (.) I think (.) quite a controversial subject here (.) how  
 2815 expensive the tickets are.

2816 Felix: It is. I've worked at Rotherham Stadium. Now they are in the 2nd  
 2817 League Championship. Even if they were in the 2nd League (.) it's  
 2818 still exciting. I quite like it. It's not even on the same level with the  
 2819 1st League in Romania. I think the 3rd League (.) maybe.

2820 Henry: Yes. Do you think it's important then (.) as a principle (.) that when  
 2821 people move (.) that they try and integrate to the place that they  
 2822 move to?

2823 Felix: Yes.

2824 Henry: Coming here (.) do you feel like it's important that you retain some  
 2825 ties with where you've come from?

2826 Felix: It's got pros and cons. I've got pros and cons with this as well. If  
 2827 you still have your beliefs you can get into conflicts and things like  
 2828 that. But also (.) you need to adapt. Obviously you've come here (.)  
 2829 or anywhere abroad (.) to change your life. To make a change. To  
 2830 arrive. I don't know. There was this thing that made me a bit (.) not  
 2831 to be seen racist or anything.

2832 Henry: You're welcome to say what you want to say.

2833 Felix: Last year I heard that maybe Muslims (.) I don't really read the  
 2834 news (.) with this halal meat. You've probably heard of it.

2835 Henry: It's the way they kill the animals.

2836 Felix: Yes. The way they kill the animals. They made such a fuss about it  
 2837 that they wanted big fast food companies like McDonalds and KFC  
 2838 (.) they wanted them to make halal food. I felt offended because  
 2839 they came to a different country (.) imposing their beliefs. I felt a  
 2840 bit offended. I don't have any word for this.

2841 Henry: No (.) offended (.) I get what you mean.

2842 Felix: Maybe bothered.

2843 Henry: Is there not perhaps a line to draw then where (.) if the majority of  
 2844 the culture you've gone to are treating in such a way=

2845 Felix: =You definitely don't have to forget where your roots are (.) but  
 2846 still (.) there is a limit.

2847 Henry: Yes. There's the other side (.) isn't there? That if the majority  
 2848 culture is imposing their own values to the extent that the people  
 2849 who move here feel alienated.

2850 Felix: Yes. It's such a debatable subject.

2851 Henry: Yes. That's why I am studying. It is a difficult subject isn't it?

2852 Felix: Yes. You've got your arguments. You feel like it's not reaching an  
 2853 end. You feel like you can't reach a conclusion. It's like a problem  
 2854 that you can't solve.

2855 Henry: I wonder if it's because we've not yet developed a way of thinking  
 2856 about it that doesn't have those opposite arguments.

2857 Felix: Yes.

2858 Henry: Because most time people are arguing from those sorts of  
2859 perspectives (.) aren't they? It's either (.) "We have the right to say  
2860 no to people (.)" and the other people are (.) "We've been hurt too  
2861 (.) we have a right as well."

2862 Felix: Yes. Exactly. There are these extremists (.) they bother me. I  
2863 always felt like in life you have to be balanced (.) you have to do a  
2864 bit of everything. You have to know your stuff. You don't need to  
2865 push your limits in a bad way. You need to improve yourself (.) but  
2866 you need to keep a balance. That's how I broke my arm.

2867 Henry: What did you do about that then?

2868 Felix: I tried something I've never done before because I wanted to  
2869 impress some people.

2870 Henry: Do you regret doing it then (.) looking back or did you feel glad  
2871 you're doing it?

2872 Felix: No. It felt like a good experience. A lesson learnt. I won't do it  
2873 again. You need to push your limits (.) but you need to know how  
2874 to push your limits.

2875 Henry: One of the last questions I was going to ask you was (.) you said  
2876 earlier that we're all European. Is that something that you feel quite  
2877 strongly about (.) as far as a national=

2878 Felix: =Well (.) in the end we are all people. There were these sections in  
2879 my application form. If you're European you need less paperwork  
2880 than if you're an international (.) like Asian or American. You need  
2881 a visa and things like that. That's why I said we're European. I don't  
2882 know if England is in the EU at the moment. I've heard talk about  
2883 this topic. If they are and thinking of getting out of it (.) or if they  
2884 aren't and thinking of getting into it.

2885 Henry: You mean it feels confusing as to where they are?

2886 Felix: Yes.

2887 Henry: What sorts of things make you think that then (.) make you  
2888 confused? Is it↑

2889 Felix: It made me confused because I've not looked into this topic much.  
2890 I've just heard about it.

2891 Henry: From what I understand it (.) the UK is in the EU. This is all part of  
2892 the argument (.) isn't it? Part of it is people are unhappy because  
2893 what it means that they're giving up a lot of national powers to do  
2894 things in order to form part of a broader project (.) which is what  
2895 the European Union has=

2896 Felix: =Yes. Globalisation.

2897 Henry: Yes. The European Union isn't=

2898 Felix: =I don't quite like this thinking of globalisation. We're not the same  
2899 (.) but we're still people. We need our cultures to be different in  
2900 some ways (.) but in the end we still need to get along.

2901 Henry: Of course (.) yes. Do you think perhaps that part of that  
2902 globalisation is that (.) as people talk and get to know each other (.)  
2903 the different cultures that will start to trade off values and start to  
2904 come together more closer to things?

2905 Felix: Yes (.) I think so. It will happen at some point. It already is  
2906 happening.

2907 Henry: Is that a sad prospect to you then (.) that Romania might stop being  
2908 Romania as you know it (.) and might just blow into some sort of  
2909 merger thing?

2910 Felix: I really don't know what to think of it. I really started to see that a  
2911 lot of Romanian people started to speak English. Not in a usual  
2912 way of going to a store and speaking English (.) but on Facebook  
2913 (.) posting in English.

2914 Henry: Right.

2915 Felix: Even between friends (.) speaking in English. Maybe because of  
2916 the movies they see and all the stuff they find themselves in those  
2917 characters. Maybe. Or maybe because of the globalisation.

2918 Henry: Yes. When you're on Facebook then (.) are you on Facebook?

2919 Felix: Yes.

2920 Henry: Do you post in Romanian then?

2921 Felix: Yes. I usually post in Romanian (.) grammatically (.) really  
2922 straight.

2923 Henry: Spot on.

2924 Felix: Yes (.) spot on.

2925 Henry: Is that something you've ever spoken to your friends about? Do  
2926 they ever post to you in English or do they just=

2927 Felix: =Yes. I've posted in English before. I'm not as strict.

2928 Henry: It's an interesting thing because obviously when you're bilingual or  
2929 you speak more than two languages (.) Do you speak more than  
2930 two languages?

2931 Felix: A bit. I studied French in high school (.) but I can't remember  
2932 much.

2933 Henry: No. We studied French and German and Spanish sometimes in  
2934 some schools. But generally we don't learn to the level (.) I  
2935 probably remember as much as you.

2936 Felix: I wouldn't be able to keep a conversation going.

2937 Henry: That (.) of course (.) says a lot about your level of English now (.)  
2938 because you've been able to talk to me for over an hour now.

2939 Felix: Yes.

2940 Henry: And talking about some pretty difficult subjects. I can't even talk  
2941 about them sometimes. I can't even find the words.

2942 Felix: As I've said (.) I've studied English for about eight years or more (.)  
2943 maybe twelve. I've learnt a lot of grammar. I've not spoken much  
2944 (.) but I've learnt a lot of grammar in English.

2945 Henry: When it comes to your friends (.) do you feel like (.) Because you  
2946 moved with your Romanian friends when you first came. Is that  
2947 something that you would do again? That you would do it the same  
2948 way again in terms of coming with friends to a new place.

2949 Felix: Yes (.) I think so. You need the support of other people and you  
2950 need the support of friends mostly. If you just met someone it's not  
2951 the same as with people you've known for ages.

2952 Henry: I've pretty much run out of questions now. I've covered (.) pretty  
2953 much (.) everything with talking about you and about your life  
2954 here. At this point (.) I don't know if there is anything else that you  
2955 want to talk about (.) anything you want to add? Obviously (.) I've  
2956 asked you questions (.) it might be that you've come thinking (.) "I  
2957 think he'll ask me about this or we might talk about that." I  
2958 don't know if there is anything that you might=

2959 Felix: =I don't know. I've said it's been a really good experience. If  
2960 someone would be asking me if they should study abroad (.) I  
2961 would say (.) definitely yes. Even with all these immigrant labels  
2962 (.) it doesn't matter much.

2963 Henry: The labels don't mean much to you?

2964 Felix: Yes. Even to other people (.) it doesn't have to mean something. It's  
2965 just media after all. I've met a lot of people here and not one of  
2966 them was racist or discriminatory.

2967 Henry: So it's almost made up?

2968 Felix: Yes.

2969 Henry: Blown up to be something that it (.) perhaps (.) isn't.

2970 Felix: Yes.

2971 Henry: Is it a label that you would identify with? If someone said (.) "Are  
2972 you an immigrant?" Would you say (.) "Yes (.)" or is that  
2973 something that=

2974 Felix: =I've thought about it. I am (.) bottom line (.) I am. It scares me to  
2975 think that I am. I don't know why. It makes me think I'm not part of

2976 that culture of being an immigrant. Being (.) not unwelcome (.) but  
 2977 not being a part of that culture.

2978 Henry: Because it differentiates=

2979 Felix: =Yes. It makes you different. Exactly.

2980 Henry: Yes. It's an interesting thought. This is something I have trouble  
 2981 with myself because I've actually said on my information letters (.)  
 2982 Romanian migrants. When I use the word migrant I always think of  
 2983 someone that has moved from one place to another. I would call  
 2984 myself a migrant because I moved from Leicester to Lincoln to  
 2985 Sheffield to where I am now in Derbyshire. So I've moved  
 2986 several times in the country (.) so not actually abroad. But it hadn't  
 2987 occurred to me (.) and no one has said it yet actually (.) when it  
 2988 comes to how you identify with that label (.) that it can be  
 2989 problematic.

2990 Felix: Yes (.) it can be (.) a bit. I really don't feel I belong here (.) in some  
 2991 ways I mean. It's not a thought that would keep me from continuing  
 2992 to live here. But it's still (.) when you go to bed (.) you still think (.)  
 2993 "I should be going back to Romania. I should be going back  
 2994 home." It's that thing that when you live for 18 years somewhere (.)  
 2995 you belong there. You find yourself in that place.

2996 Henry: Like you said (.) that word should (.) isn't it (.) that it feels right.

2997 Felix: Yes.

2998 Henry: It's an interesting thing (.) isn't it? Some people move and then they  
 2999 never return.

3000 Felix: Yes. I've met some people=

3001 Henry: =Then they transcend that (.) don't they?

3002 Felix: Yes. They just=

3003 Henry: =Then people like you were saying (.) you feel homesick.

3004 Felix: Yes. I've known people that moved to England and never came  
 3005 back. I've met people that came to study here and after the first  
 3006 year went back to Romania because they couldn't adapt. It's just  
 3007 different people. After studying Psychology I realised you cannot  
 3008 generalise.

3009 Henry: The one thing Psychologists try to do.

3010 Felix: Yes.

3011 Henry: Yes. It's an interesting subject (.) isn't it?

3012 Felix: It's really hard studying something because that's what studying is  
 3013 about (.) doing reports and things like that (.) you need to  
 3014 generalise. When you come to think about it (.) you really cannot.

3015 Henry: No. Or if you do (.) you do it at your peril because someone else  
 3016 will say (.) "Well (.) actually (.) that's not the case because you've  
 3017 done this."

3018 Felix: Yes. You always find that thing that's not like that. So that is the  
 3019 exception to the rule.

3020 Henry: It's been a really interesting interview. I think you've had a lot of  
 3021 really interesting things to say and reflect on really.

3022 Felix: It may be because I'm studying Psychology.

3023 Henry: It might be. It's not always a prerequisite. I've known some people  
 3024 before that have stood there and haven't got a clue to start thinking  
 3025 about how it might inform how they think about life. It's like (.) "I  
 3026 learn it and it's in the book." It never goes through you. In some  
 3027 people it does. Obviously (.) it does with you because of everything  
 3028 you've said.

3029 Felix: Yes. Because I've been interested in Psychology and all the stuff (.)  
 3030 I became a bit more observant of things (.) of little things. Always.

3031 Henry: Yes. We've probably done that with each other today.

3032 Felix: Yes.

3033 Henry: Things we're not even aware of. It's like learning a new language  
 3034 again (.) isn't it (.) and ways of seeing the world?

3035 Felix: Exactly. Yes.

3036 Henry: I don't know if there is anything else you want to say? Anything  
 3037 else for the sake of the interview. But if you're happy (.) I'm quite  
 3038 happy to stop now (.) at this point.

3039 Felix: Yes.

3040 Henry: Yes?

3041 Felix: As you wish.

3042 Henry: Yes (.) of course. ((transcript ends))



*Transcript 4: Anna*

- 3043 Henry: wait until that comes on ((shuffling: 10 seconds)) okay (.) so if you're  
3044 happy to star↓t (.) then (.) I guess we'll start off by you just telling me a bit  
3045 about yourself so (.) whereabouts in Romania are you fro↑m?
- 3046 Anna: The capital city (.) Bucharest=
- 3047 Henry: =The capital?=
- 3048 Anna: =Yes (.) and I study Architectu↑re=
- 3049 Henry: =okay
- 3050 Anna: (1) I really enjoy it.
- 3051 Henry: yeah (.) what year are you in?
- 3052 Anna: er second yea↑r.
- 3053 Henry: okay (.) have you u:m (.) have you bee- come to the UK just fo- just for the  
3054 course?
- 3055 Anna: uh yeah.
- 3056 Henry: You came what was it- just over a year ago↓?
- 3057 Anna: Yes (.) a year ago. A year and a hal:f yeah year and a hal:f ((laughter))
- 3058 Henry: Yes (.) I suppose it is [a year and a half (.) isn't it?]
- 3059 [((laughter)) ]
- 3060 Anna: Yes (.) I know.
- 3061 Henry: It flies by (.) doesn't it↑?
- 3062 Anna: Yes.
- 3063 Henry: You're from the capital city (.) um (.) What about your family background  
3064 (.) then? Did your parents go to uni?
- 3065 Anna: Yes (.) they did (.) both of them (.) but I think they went to uni when they  
3066 were around thi[rty↑ (.) s]o they weren't as young as I am no↓w [when they  
3067 went to uni]
- 3068 Henry: [oka↑y] [Right (.) so they went  
3069 t]o uni before they had kids and all that sort of thing then?
- 3070 Anna: Yeah yeah
- 3071 Henry: So you're sort of following in their footsteps (.) in a way by going to uni  
3072 yourself (.) then?=  
3073 Anna: =Yeah (.) somehow [((laughs))]
- 3074 Henry: [Did they e]ncourage you to go?=  
3075

3075 Anna: =Yeah (.) yeah (.) definitely. Well (.) it was my decision in the end (.) but  
3076 they just made sure I knew about the possibilities.

3077 Henry: mm (.) okay then (.) How old are you (.) if you don't mind me asking?

3078 Anna: Twenty. Yes (.) I forgot to mention.

3079 Henry: yu- tha↑t's okay. (1) So (.) cou↑ld you tell me a little bi:t abou::t erm (.) the  
3080 process that led up to your decision to stay in the UK? You would have  
3081 been eighteen (.) getting on close to finishing school?

3082 Anna: Yeah.

3083 Henry: What sorts of things were going through your mind at that point?

3084 Anna: Well (.) I'd wanted to be an architect from since I was like (.) ten years  
3085 ol↑d=

3086 Henry: =okay

3087 Anna: so I started to search about different architectural schools (.) not only in my  
3088 home countr↑y. Sheffield here was the most intere↑sting one because (.) Im  
3089 dunno it had that focus on 'Environmental Design' (.) and I was really into  
3090 saving the planet and helping the people you know (.) It was just like the  
3091 perfect choice.

3092 Henry: Yes (.) so it was something about the underlying value [of the] course (.)  
3093 then (.) and about co[nserv]ation that really caught your eye?

3094 Anna: [yeah]  
3095 [yeah] Yeah (.) that was the main reason yeah

3096 Henry: so a lot goes through your mind (.) then- we walked into this buildin↓g. A  
3097 lot goes through your mind about how it's designed (.) [what goes on (.) is  
3098 it] sustainable (.) what's the e[nerge]y efficiency (.) and that sort of [stuff]?

3099 Anna: [yeah ((laughter)) ]  
3100 [yeah] [yeah]

3101 Henry: a:w (.) that's great. so (.) so it was really more to do with the course itself  
3102 tha- than where it was?

3103 Anna: yeah yeah yeah

3104 Henry: Ri:ght (.) okay (.) that's interesting.

3105 Anna: I even started to like (.) lear:n French (.) just in ca:se.

3106 Henry: wha- (.) there was another course in France that you might have gone to  
3107 instead (.) then?

3108 Anna: Yes (.) but this one is better (.) I think (.) for me.

3109 Henry: Yeah (.) but was the French one an insurance choice (.) then (.) like if this  
3110 one didn't work out (.) then you would go there?

3111 Anna: er:m no↑ the insurance choice was in UK as well ((lau[ghter]))

3112 Henry: [Oka:y] (.) so it was if it  
3113 all went wrong (.) you would go to France (.) then?

3114 Anna: Yeah yeah

3115 Henry: okay. Were you always set then (.) on moving away from Romania to study  
3116 (.) then? Was that something that went through your mind? You were  
3117 saying that there were the UK courses and then there was also France. You  
3118 didn't want to stay in Romania?

3119 Anna: Well (.) not really. Mainly because of the course and because the  
3120 educational system is a bit differe<sup>nt</sup>. (1) like (.) at least here (.) someone is  
3121 listening to your opi<sup>n</sup>ion (.) and I'm really interested in tal:ki<sup>ng</sup> to  
3122 pe[ople] (.) not just studying (.) reading from books and that's it.

3123 Henry: [mm] That's interesting. So=

3124 Anna: =I was studying for two years to go to a university in [Rom]ania. Then (.)  
3125 after two years (.) I was like (.) "Okay (.) I'm not going to do this (.)"  
3126 because I did not like the lecturers and stuff like that. I r[ea]lly didn't] like  
3127 them. I was like (.) "Oka<sup>y</sup> [((laughter)) I'll go somewhere else."]

3128 Henry: [yeah]  
3129 [oh ri<sup>ght</sup>]  
3130 [((laughter)) ] Could you tell me a bit mo<sup>re</sup> about  
3131 that (.) then? What sorts of vi<sup>sb</sup>es were you getting from them when you  
3132 were talking to them?

3133 Anna: I don't know. th- they (.) they were looking at me as if I'm just like (.)  
3134 another student. "We have thousands of students and you're just one of  
3135 them"=

3136 Henry: =yeah

3137 Anna: Then (.) u::m (.) I think almost the same thing happened when I tried to get  
3138 a place in Fra:nce. They were having like (.) the same attitude. Here (.) it  
3139 was so different because everyone was so friendly and I could ask questions  
3140 (.) which was really important for me because (.) obviously (.) I wanted to  
3141 know more about the course (.) the people (.) the staff and things like that.  
3142 Here at Sheffield (.) they were really (.) really friendly.

3143 Henry: So you came for an open day (.) then (.) did you=

3144 Anna: =No (.) I didn't.

3145 Henry: No. It was just (.) "Apply (.) got it (.) came straight here (.)" and that was  
3146 it?

3147 Anna: er yeah (.) I gave er (.) I made like fifty calls or something=

3148 Henry: =Wow. You hit the ground running then really

3149 Anna: Yes. They were really nice. I requested a Sky<sup>tp</sup>e interview because I  
3150 wanted to ask more qu<sup>es</sup>tions about the course (.) and they were really

3151 happy about that. That guy was so happy. He was so enthusiastic about the  
3152 whole thing=

3153 Henry: aw: that's what you want to hear (.) isn't it?=  
3154 Anna: =Yeah yeah=  
3155 Henry: =aw (.) that's great. (.) When you- um (.) were applying (.) was it just a  
3156 simple matter of (.) you were given a conditional offer (.) then (.) and you  
3157 were just waiting for your [results?]

3158 Anna: [Yeah but] after like (.) doing the research (.) I was almost sure  
3159 I was going to go to the UK.

3160 Henry: Okay (.) you were always sure=  
3161 Anna: =Yeah  
3162 Henry: so wh- if you cou- go take your mind back (.) obviously (.) it's a year and a  
3163 bit ago so it might b- be a bit tough to begin with (.) but if you could just  
3164 take your mind back to when you got your results and you knew that you  
3165 were going to come to the UK (.) was there anything that (.) you started to  
3166 prepare yourself for? Obviously (.) it would have involved some movement  
3167 (.) wouldn't it?

3168 Anna: Yeah. I knew some things about the British culture and so on. I was (.)  
3169 think I was a bit too confident about my English skills (.) which weren't  
3170 that good (.) but I started to research like er (.) the living costs and stuff like  
3171 that because I wasn't aware of those kinds of thing. I didn't really do that  
3172 much research. I just packed my stuff and came here. ((laughter)) I was (.) I  
3173 thought I was prepared for any kind of situation (.) but I wasn't=

3174 Henry: =okay. There are a couple of things I'd love to pick up there. You were  
3175 saying (.) to begin with (.) about British culture. What sorts of things did  
3176 you expect or did you think you you know=

3177 Anna: =I think it was exactly as I was expecting it (.) like with people on the street  
3178 (.) nice staff in the coffee shops (.) and stuff like that.

3179 Henry: okay um (.) yeah (.) because you were saying that you were expecting what  
3180 the British culture was like. Was this how people acted or in terms of what  
3181 sorts of things=

3182 Anna: =It was (.) "What do they like to do and to eat?" and stuff like that=  
3183 Henry: =okay=  
3184 Anna: =because it was quite different to what we used to eat (.) do and stuff like  
3185 that.

3186 Henry: Okay. There was something else in your answer (.) then (.) that interested  
3187 me as well. I'm trying to think now. Could you repeat the last bit of what  
3188 you said? Sorry=  
3189 Anna: =About how (.) I prepared for my experience.

3190 Henry: Yes (.) so you were saying that you felt quite confident with English?

3191 Anna: Ye:ah.

3192 Henry: What actually happened when you arrived (.) then? Were you surprised  
3193 by↑=

3194 Anna: =They were more informal than I thought they would be with their spoken  
3195 English and stuff like that. Then (.) the Yorkshire accent was just ma:d.

3196 Henry: Was it? ((laughter))

3197 Anna: Yeah (|Laughter)) Now (.) I like it. I really like it now.

3198 Henry: It was hard to penetrate what they were sayin-

3199 Anna: Yeah (.) something like that.

3200 Henry: um (.) does that have anything to do with the accent that you were taught  
3201 when you were learning English in Romania? Could that have had  
3202 something to do with it?

3203 Anna: I don't think so cos (.) because I had been taught in my high school a  
3204 standard British accent. It's just that the words were too fancy (.) formal  
3205 and stuff like that.

3206 Henry: okay (.) um (.) When you were saying that you were preparing to come and  
3207 you were looking at accommodation (.) what sorts of things were going  
3208 through your mind with the accommodation (.) then? Was there anything in  
3209 particular that you wanted that you had set your mind to? =

3210 Anna: =Yeah I wanted a shared one because I had no friends here. I was on my  
3211 own. I wanted to meet someone and make friends (.) so I started to look for  
3212 shared houses. Then (.) I found a website from the main University website  
3213 with University accommoda↑tion. I was like (.) "Okay (.) these guys are  
3214 going to be students with me↑ (.) so (.) yes (.) I think I should go there" =

3215 Henry: =Was it done through the University (.) the shared houses (.) then?

3216 Anna: Yeah

3217 Henry: Did you have any idea who you wanted to live with? did you =

3218 Anna: =No (.) it was completely random.

3219 Henry: Totally random? How did that turn out for you (.) then?

3220 Anna: Really bad.

3221 Henry: Quite bad?

3222 Anna: Yeah.

3223 Henry: Why was that (.) then?

3224 Anna: I lived with three other people: two boys and one other girl. uh (.) She was  
3225 from London (.) and then one of the boys was from Cambridge. The other

3226 was from Liverpool↑l (.) I think. He had a weird accent (.) but he was really  
 3227 funny. When I got there (.) I dunno (.) it was really late at night and they  
 3228 were having some party and (.) I joined them. It was really nice. We were  
 3229 talking about stuff and things. Two days after that party (.) one of them  
 3230 thought about asking me where I was from. you know cos of yeah (.) When  
 3231 I said (.) “Romania (.)” they were like (.) “Oh (.) okay (.)” and they  
 3232 suddenly stopped talking to me=

3233 Henry: =Really?

3234 Anna: It was so weird. Every time I went to the kitchen to cook something (.) if I  
 3235 didn’t say (.) “Hi (.)” they wouldn’t like (.) notice that I was in there and  
 3236 stuff like that. But (.) I didn’t really get upset. I was like (.) “I’m going to be  
 3237 patient. I’m going to try” you know (.) In the end (.) I think we’re friends  
 3238 (.) somehow. We started talking about four months after I moved in. It was  
 3239 a bit sad at the beginning.

3240 Henry: mmm. That must have been really hard for you (.) then (.) just moving over  
 3241 and then=

3242 Anna: =Yes (.) because like (.) I had this idea (.) “I’m going to meet new friends  
 3243 and like well most of them will be friendly (.)” and stuff like that (.) but it  
 3244 wasn’t like that.

3245 Henry: mm (.) so looking back (.) then (.) how do you make sense of that now in  
 3246 terms of (.) What was that about (.) for you?

3247 Anna: I dunno (.) what to sa:y. Maybe they were just not used to in England. I  
 3248 don’t know what to say.

3249 Henry: Have you stayed in contact with them?

3250 Anna: Yeah (.) [I’m talking to] them. and talking to them (.) I just had to be patient  
 3251 and wait for them to like (.) accept my situation.

3252 Henry: [mm talking] and it’s interesting (.) isn’t it because you’re saying that  
 3253 it was you that had to be patient and they would come around to it (.) rather  
 3254 than you being patient that moving here (.) you’d be able to adapt and settle  
 3255 in?

3256 Anna: Yeah=

3257 Henry: =It’s interesting that you put it that way around (.) isn’t it (.) and that they  
 3258 needed to adapt to it?

3259 Anna: Yes: I felt like I was doing my best because I wasn’t like (.) judging them or  
 3260 stuff like that (.) but it was weird. Every time they were going to the  
 3261 laundry roo↑m (.) they were locking their doo↑rs and stuff like that. It made  
 3262 me feel really awkward (.) but I wasn’t doing that thing because it was  
 3263 pointless I mean yeah so=

3264 Henry: =It’s an interesting story.

3265 Anna: Yes.

3266 Henry: That's one of the next questions I was going to ask about initial experiences  
 3267 you had when arriving. Can you think of any other things that- not  
 3268 necessarily wei- ones like what you just said about your flatmates (.) but  
 3269 when you're first arriving (.) you're settling in and getting a sense of where  
 3270 you are now (.) is there anything that you can remember as being  
 3271 particularly poignant in your memories?

3272 Anna: I don't think so. I think this is the main one.

3273 Henry: That was the main one?

3274 Anna: Yes (.) because every time I'm thinking about last year when it happened (.)  
 3275 this is the first thing that comes into my mind yeah

3276 Henry: What about on your course (.) then (.) in terms of people that you met on  
 3277 your course? With your lecturers (.) you were saying that the lecturers were  
 3278 really useful when you were applying?

3279 Anna: Yes (.) they were really nice. I just love them. the- (.) mostly (.) there are  
 3280 British people on my course. and (.) there are only three international  
 3281 people with myself. At the beginning it was the same (.) and now (.) it's  
 3282 worse (.) I think.

3283 Henry: In what way?

3284 Anna: It's just that everyone is (.) nice to you and then kind only when they need  
 3285 stuff. And it's really weird. Last year (.) and I think it was the end of the  
 3286 second seme<sup>↑</sup>ster (.) I was just in the studio working. You know when  
 3287 you're studying Architecture (.) everyone is in the studio and you're  
 3288 supposed to help each other?

3289 Henry: Yes.

3290 Anna: so it was the huge group and then the three of us (.) which was really weird.

3291 Henry: Ah (.) a bit lonely?=  
 3292 Anna: =Yes. It was a bit weird. Some of them were just like talking about  
 3293 Romanian people and saying really rude stuff and (.) I was there and I could  
 3294 hear them. I dunno. I think they just moved on (.) or I hope so.

3295 Henry: In those particular instances (.) then (.) was this something that you  
 3296 challenged or was this something where um (.) like you said before (.) you  
 3297 were being patient with it?

3298 Anna: Yes (.) maybe it challenged me (.) because you know (.) it's easier to make  
 3299 progress when you work as a huge group. I had to study more and I had to  
 3300 catch up on my own. Which (.) I think it was better. This helped me a lot  
 3301 because I actually got big marks and so on. But then (.) they said (.) "How  
 3302 can a stupid Romanian girl have huge marks?" I was like (.) "What's wrong  
 3303 with you people?" Maybe it was because of the competition (.) because it's a  
 3304 very competitive are<sup>↑</sup>a. I don't know what to say=

3305 Henry: =Yes (.) I wonder (.) perhaps (.) if (.) about what you're saying (.) it's more  
3306 to do with them and how they see competition rather than how (.) anything  
3307 to do with you=

3308 Anna: =Yeah (.) I think it's just this way.

3309 Henry: So what about (.) comparing then to now (.) then (.) do you find it's much  
3310 easier to work now or do you still find some of those challenges?

3311 Anna: Yes (.) cos like (.) I'm friends with some of them (.) but the others are just  
3312 worse than they were at the beginning.

3313 Henry: Worse?

3314 Anna: Yes (.) but I don't get why and I'm not bothered trying to understand  
3315 because I just don't care. Do you see what I mean?=  
3316 Henry: =Yeah

3317 Anna: It's just like some of them friendly and some of them are not.

3318 Henry: so it's going into what you're saying: that you're friends with the people  
3319 that are happy to [be fr]iends and [be fr]iendly (.) but t[hose] that aren't?

3320 Anna: [yeah] [yeah] Yes (.) I just mind there.

3321 Henry: yeah (.) I can understand why you would see it in that way because it begs  
3322 the question of what the problem is (.) doesn't it?=  
3323 Anna: =oh yeah (.) We had that thing where you can enrol for being student reps.  
3324 Obviously (.) I wanted to go for that one because I had no idea what that  
3325 was about (.) so I wanted to try it and have the [experience]. I felt- that they  
3326 were like (.) "Are you stealing our place for being a student rep?" you know  
3327 (.) They had the atti- idea that I didn't belong there. I didn't get why=

3328 Henry: [yeah yeah] =I can see what  
3329 you're saying in that you don't understand why they think that (.) but let's  
3330 say we're in a situation ur (.) where someone says that to you. What would  
3331 you say back to that? What sorts of things come to your mind as far as what  
3332 you are entitled to say to them? (1) Does that make sense?

3333 Anna: No: not really ((laughter))=

3334 Henry: =Sorry (.) I'm thinking as I'm saying (.) you see. um (.) If I were one of  
3335 those students here (.) what sorts of things go through your mind if I'm  
3336 saying that you're not entitled to be a student rep? Has your view changed  
3337 over time to be more assertive about what you can and can't do (.) or is it  
3338 something where (.) like you were saying (.) you're friends with the  
3339 students that stay and then you just stick with that?

3340 Anna: I don't know. I'm still trying to talk to those people. I'm doing my best and  
3341 I'm doing my part (.) but I can't tell them (.) "Do your part because I've  
3342 done mine."It's your idea=

3343 Henry: =I see what you mean (.) yeah



3344 Anna: I don't know. Maybe it's their education. I don't know what to say

3345 Henry: Of course it's difficult (.) isn't it to ponder why people say the things they  
3346 do? yeah It's difficult (.) isn't it?

3347 Anna: Yes.

3348 Henry: So aside from the more curious characters on your course (.) how do you  
3349 find life in the UK more generally (.) then?

3350 Anna: oh (.) I think it's nicer than Romania. I sunno Maybe it's because of me  
3351 moving (.) but I feel that I have more responsibilities than I had when I was  
3352 back home.

3353 Henry: yeah (.) so you feel like it gives you more of a chance to do your own thing  
3354 (.) I suppose?

3355 Anna: Yeah

3356 Henry: That's moving out of home (.) I suppose (.) as much as anything (.) isn't it?

3357 Anna: Yeah. Apart from my flatmates and course mates (.) everyone is so nice  
3358 and kind.

3359 Henry: and what about erm (.) if I could go back to your family (.) again (.) and  
3360 your parents (.) in terms of when you said about how nice it feels to be  
3361 independent (.) did they look after you quite a lot when you were at home  
3362 (.) then?=  
3363 Anna: =No (.) not really. It just feels different he↑re.

3364 Henry: Can you expand on that and why it may feel different?

3365 Anna: because (.) maybe it's because of the society and of the way people talk to  
3366 you on the street and help each other. Yes (.) maybe that's way. I don't  
3367 know. I'm not sure.

3368 Henry: Do you stay in touch with them?

3369 Anna: My family?

3370 Henry: Yes.

3371 Anna: Yes (.) obviously. ((laughter))

3372 Henry: Well (.) I was just wondering. Is it a regular thing? Every night or is it just  
3373 every now and again when you have time?

3374 Anna: We text each other every day (.) but it's not for=

3375 Henry: =It's just that fitting them in your hours of work?

3376 Anna: Yes.

3377 Henry: That's fair enough. Obviously (.) with the Uni experience (.) some people  
3378 approach it like (.) "I'm just going to freeze them off for a little while. Not  
3379 for ages (.) but just long enough that I can get on (.) that I don't have to rely

3380 on them (.) and that (.) ‘I’m okay. I’m okay. I’m okay.’” Then (.) other  
 3381 people have a really close relationship and they get closer when they move  
 3382 away. I’m just curious (.) I suppose (.) of when you’ve got a continental  
 3383 divide. You’re at the other ends of Europe (.) aren’t you?

3384 Anna: Yes.

3385 Henry: How are they finding it? Do they find it difficult?

3386 Anna: My parents?

3387 Henry: Yes.

3388 Anna: A bit (.) because I’m an only child.

3389 Henry: Okay (.) that changes it (.) doesn’t it (.) because you’re their baby?

3390 Anna: Yes. Suddenly (.) they are completely worrying about me.

3391 Henry: If anything (.) it’s you trying to ↑? “I’m okay. Just let me do it”? ((laughter))

3392 Anna: Yes (.) something like that. ((laughter))

3393 Henry: Oh (.) that’s fair enough. You say you’ve had really good experiences  
 3394 meeting new people here. Do you do a lot of things outside of uni (.) when  
 3395 you meet people (.) then?

3396 Anna: Yes (.) I play tennis.

3397 Henry: Do you play it every week (.) then?

3398 Anna: I used to (.) but this semester is so demanding that I=

3399 Henry: =You just don’t have the time?

3400 Anna: Yes. I went to some basketball sessios (.) because I’m really into sports.

3401 Henry: Yes (.) it sounds like it.

3402 Anna: Then (.) I just went to random events. I think I met around 9 or 10 British  
 3403 people who speak Romanian.

3404 Henry: Wow.

3405 Anna: It was so weird. They were like (.) “Where are you from?” I was like (.)  
 3406 “I’m from Romania.” They were saying (.) “Hello. How are you?” in  
 3407 Romanian. It was really nice.

3408 Henry: Oh (.) that’s great.

3409 That’s the sort of thing where it must be quite encouraging and quite weird  
 3410 when they say in the English accent. They would be in the accent (.) then (.)  
 3411 wouldn’t they?

3412 Anna: Yes (.) most of them (.) I think (.) were really good (.) and they had a proper  
 3413 accent. It was a bit weird. I asked one of them (.) “Why have you decided  
 3414 on studying Romanian?” They were like (.) “We have Romanian friends

3415 and it sounded interesting. We wanted to know more about the language  
3416 and the culture.” Yes (.) so that was really nice.

3417 Henry: That’s a pleasant experience (.) I suppose (.) isn’t it?

3418 Anna: Yes.

3419 Henry: They’re people that played tennis and basketball (.) then (.) when you’ve  
3420 met those people or is this just a round-up of the things you’ve been to?

3421 Anna: Most of them were asking me about teaching them Romanian. They were  
3422 like (.) “Teach us some words. Teach us to do something. Cook some  
3423 Romanian meal for us.” They were asking a lot of questions. They  
3424 wanted to know lots of things about Romanian people (.) culture and stuff  
3425 like that.

3426 Henry: Do you cook quite a lot of Romanian food (.) then?

3427 Anna: I do (.) yes.

3428 Henry: Other people I’ve spoken to don’t tend to do it as much.

3429 Anna: Really?

3430 Henry: Yes. I’m just interested in that. Is it something that you quite like to↑?=

3431 Anna: =Maybe it’s just something that keeps my mind away from the project. I’m  
3432 working from home and I feel like having a 30-minute break. Then (.) I go  
3433 and cook something and can go back to my study.

3434 Henry: It sounds like it’s quite therapeutic for you (.) then (.) and it gives you a  
3435 chance just to get away from it for a bit?

3436 Anna: Yes (.) a bit.

3437 Henry: Obviously (.) with your Architecture (.) you have crits (.) don’t you (.)  
3438 where you have someone that comes and scrutinises what you work on a  
3439 wall?

3440 Anna: Yes.

3441 Henry: I have had some friends that did Architecture (.) so I imagine it’s  
3442 comparable to some extent. How have you found those experiences (.)  
3443 especially early on (.) obviously (.) when you were saying you felt less  
3444 confident when you arrived with your English? Is that a particular angle  
3445 that you found (.) being put on the spot↑?

3446 Anna: No (.) not really. I was okay with that.

3447 Henry: You found that okay?

3448 Anna: Yes (.) just more like general face-to-face conversations.

3449 Henry: I suppose (.) because you love your course (.) that helps (.) doesn’t it?  
3450 ((laughter))

3451 Anna: Yes. Crits were really nice. At the beginning (.) I didn't put in that much  
3452 effort because I had been enrolled in a two-year course for Architecture and  
3453 I was a bit more prepared than the others. Then (.) I realised that I still  
3454 needed to improve my skills and my knowledge. Yes (.) it was easy at the  
3455 beginning. I still think it's easy. I don't know why. I don't know if you  
3456 know (.) but we have high school and college together as some sort of four-  
3457 year degree. For that one (.) I did Maths and Computer Science (.) and it  
3458 was really hard (.) so this one feels a lot easier.

3459 Henry: Yes (.) do you use AutoCAD?

3460 Anna: Yes.

3461 Henry: I imagine if you've done Maths (.) there is quite a lot of=

3462 Anna: =It's not only knowing about AutoCAD (.) because Architecture is about  
3463 solving problems (.) and if you do Maths (.) when you're doing Maths (.)  
3464 you're solving problems. That's why I found it easier.

3465 Henry: Yes (.) I suppose when you're trying to fit things in certain spaces and  
3466 you've got to?

3467 Anna: Yes.

3468 Henry: Yes (.) I can see what you mean. It helped prepare you quite a lot (.) your  
3469 earlier schooling (.) then?

3470 Anna: Yes. I think up to that stage of education (.) Romania is really good (.) but  
3471 afterwards (.) it's just a waste of time. That's just my personal opinion.

3472 Henry: Of course (.) yes. Like you said at the start (.) it was never an option to stay  
3473 in Romania (.) then?

3474 Anna: It was in the beginning (.) but as I did more and more research (.) I found  
3475 that I didn't want to go there anymore.

3476 Henry: What would have been the options for you (.) then? You would have stayed  
3477 in the capital (.) presumably (.) then?

3478 Anna: Yes (.) I think so.

3479 Henry: Obviously (.) it's all (.) "What could I have done?" Obviously (.) you made  
3480 a particular decision (.) but it's interesting.

3481 Anna: I'm that type of person who is putting a lot of effort into what they are  
3482 doing (.) and I felt like my effort wouldn't be appreciated enough or  
3483 criticised enough in Romania at something like university level. Yes (.) I  
3484 just decided (.) "I can do something better with my effort."

3485 Henry: Yes (.) I can remember you saying at the start. It's this sense that you just  
3486 go through it and you want to be noticed either way. You just muddle  
3487 through it. Whereas (.) here (.) you're recognised.

3488 Anna: Yes.

3489 Henry: At least at uni or even beyond (.) is being valued and recognised something  
3490 that is important to you in what you do?

3491 Anna: Yes.

3492 Henry: I suppose you want to go on to do Architecture (.) then (.) as a profession?

3493 Anna: Yes.

3494 Henry: Isn't there a Master's that you do afterwards (.) like a top-up thing?

3495 Anna: Yes.

3496 Henry: Is that something that you're interested in doing?

3497 Anna: I think you need to have some job experience before you go to the Master's  
3498 (.) so I'm not sure. If you have a good portfolio (.) you can go for the  
3499 Master's (.) but I don't know. I definitely want a Master's (.) yes.

3500 Henry: You want to be able to call yourself an architect at the end of it (.) then?

3501 Anna: Yes (.) exactly. Yes (.) I really like studying Architecture.

3502 Henry: As far as the immediate plans are concerned (.) then (.) obviously (.) you're  
3503 taking on your second year now (.) aren't you?

3504 Anna: Yes.

3505 Henry: Is it that once you're finished (.) to try and find a job in the UK? Is that  
3506 what you're thinking (.) then?

3507 Anna: I don't know. Honestly (.) I will maybe search for some internships in  
3508 Switzerland or France. I don't mind going somewhere else because I just  
3509 want more experience. Do you see what I mean? I don't mind moving. I  
3510 don't mind going somewhere else.

3511 Henry: Yes (.) so you're quite open-minded to that side of things (.) then?

3512 Anna: Yes.

3513 Henry: Presumably (.) you're quite confident with your French as well (.) then?

3514 Anna: Well (.) I was (.) but I haven't practised in a long time.

3515 Henry: You're willing to learn (.) I suppose?

3516 Anna: Yes.

3517 Henry: It's interesting because (.) if you don't mind me saying (.) you almost don't  
3518 seem to be bothered by national boundaries. You just seem to be (.) "I'm  
3519 quite happy to flow around and get on with it."

3520 Anna: I just want to know and see as many things as I can see.

3521 Henry: At this point (.) I'd just like to ask a few broader questions about the UK  
3522 and about how you think about the UK (.) because (.) obviously (.) that's  
3523 where we are at the moment. You'd have seen on the news (.) I imagine (.)  
3524 quite a lot of stuff about Romania?

3525 Anna: No (.) not really.

3526 Henry: You've not?

3527 Anna: No (.) I'm not watching news.

3528 Henry: You don't watch it at all?

3529 Anna: Yes (.) I'm reading some newspapers (.) but (.) I'm aware (.) to a certain  
3530 extent (.) about some stuff.

3531 Henry: Sorry (.) it's probably presumptuous of me to assume that you have (.)  
3532 Obviously (.) I monitor it because that's simply what I do. As a researcher  
3533 (.) you presume people are more involved in the things=

3534 Anna: =Yes.

3535 Henry: Do you have any thoughts (.) generally (.) about the way that British people  
3536 talk about migration or the way that it's debated? Is it something that  
3537 you've ever given much thought about?

3538 Anna: Not really (.) but I think most of the British people I've met are just okay  
3539 with migration because some of them migrated some years ago and then  
3540 came back to the UK. Yes (.) I think most of them are open-minded when it  
3541 comes to migration.

3542 Henry: Obviously (.) Romania and Bulgaria recently gained accession into the EU  
3543 and they could move around freely. That was something that was talked  
3544 about quite a lot in the UK. If you moved here a year ago (.) that would  
3545 have been the end of 2012. Is that right? Oh (.) no. It would have been 2013  
3546 (.) wouldn't it?

3547 Anna: Yes (.) 2013.

3548 Henry: Yes (.) the end of 2013 (.) so January would have been not far away. When  
3549 you were coming here (.) the months preceding would have led up to=

3550 Anna: =Oh (.) you mean with the jobs and=

3551 Henry: =Well (.) in terms of when 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 happened. It meant that people  
3552 could move around freely without job visas or anything like that.

3553 Anna: Oh (.) yes (.) so it was for jobs? No (.) I didn't talk about that one.

3554 Henry: Is it something that occurred to you when you were looking?

3555 Anna: No (.) not really (.) because I was only focusing on my education. I think  
3556 it's quite an important reason for most Romanian people: to come here (.)  
3557 the way things were. Yes (.) I think so. When you're back home and people  
3558 are talking about going abroad to work and stuff like that (.) I think there  
3559 are more people talking about going abroad to work rather going abroad to  
3560 study.

3561 Henry: Obviously (.) like you say (.) you don't follow the news very much. Even if  
3562 it just newspapers or the things people talk about (.) about the way that it's  
3563 talked about or the sorts of people that are being talked about (.) is there

3564 anything about it that seems odd or that sticks out at you? As someone who  
3565 has moved here (.) obviously (.) you have that different perspective.

3566 Anna: Yes (.) I see what you mean. Almost every time I was reading an article in a  
3567 newspaper about Romanian people (.) they only had negative impressions. I  
3568 don't get why. Well (.) I actually get why (.) but it's not like all of the  
3569 people are like that and stuff. I don't really mind.

3570 Henry: What about in terms of you saying you could see why? Could you expand  
3571 on that a little bit? You know you were saying (.) "I can see why (.)" for  
3572 that side of it? What side can you see there?

3573

3574 Anna: I think most people are talking about gypsies. I've recently been to Italy (.)  
3575 and (.) actually (.) I think there are more gypsies there than in our country  
3576 (.) but people don't talk about the Italian gypsies. I don't know. Before  
3577 Romanians came to the UK (.) there were some people from Poland  
3578 working here (.) so I think they had the same attitude.

3579 Henry: Yes (.) it does seem to be a historical thing whenever there is a new load of  
3580 people.

3581 Anna: I don't really think it's about Romanian people. It's just a general attitude.  
3582 It could have been people from Switzerland (.) Norway or (.) I don't know.

3583 Henry: It's just panicking?

3584 Anna: Yes (.) I think so.

3585 Henry: Does that have any bearing on how you see the British in a general way?

3586 Anna: No (.) I don't think so.

3587 Henry: You were telling me your experiences have been really positive?

3588 Anna: Yes (.) I have a very positive attitude towards British people.

3589 Henry: It seems like it's only the minority of people that you've had a weird  
3590 experience with (.) like the people you lived with or the people on your  
3591 course. It seems like (.) generally (.) they're in a minority.

3592 Anna: Yes (.) I think so (.) at least from my experience (.) or I was just lucky. I  
3593 don't know. ((laughter))

3594 Henry: When you were saying about perhaps moving to France or Switzerland (.)  
3595 as a really general thing (.) with your ability to move around (.) do you  
3596 think that should be a right and that we all have a right to move around? Is  
3597 it something where (.) perhaps (.) you think it should be controlled  
3598 according to what skills or education you've got or what sort of work is out  
3599 there available?

3600 Anna: Oh (.) that's a tough question. I don't think it should be controlled (.) but I  
3601 think that every country should make sure that they have a proper  
3602 education. After all (.) it's about education. I don't know. It's just my  
3603 opinion.

3604 Henry: You think if everyone has got a similar standard (.) then it wouldn't be a  
3605 problem who moves around where because everyone is at a similar=

3606 Anna: =Sort of.

3607 Henry: It sounds like what you were saying earlier. You like the idea that you can  
3608 just move around and experience things rather than having to fill out forms  
3609 and having to tackle that side of it.

3610 Anna: Yes (.) and it's a bit sad (.) when you compare the level of education of  
3611 people from the UK to that of ones from Romania (.) where it's a huge  
3612 difference. That's a bit sad. Maybe that's why people don't like Romanians.  
3613 I don't know. I'm just saying.

3614 Henry: When you say (.) 'it's a bit sad' (.) is it something where you feel like it  
3615 should be challenged?

3616 Anna: I think it's just about Romania developing more in this field.

3617 Henry: I suppose Romania's history in that sense is really important (.) then (.)  
3618 isn't it?

3619 Anna: Yes (.) it is.

3620 Henry: There is only so much we can say about a country that has only been  
3621 existing as it is for 20 years.

3622 Anna: Yes (.) I know.

3623 Henry: Is that something that you ever think about? It's something you probably  
3624 would have studied from school (.) isn't it (.) growing up?

3625 Anna: Yes.

3626 Henry: I suppose it would have all been making up the history as you go along  
3627 really (.) in a way (.) wouldn't it?

3628 Anna: Yes.

3629 Henry: Is that something your family ever speak about at all?

3630 Anna: Yes (.) especially because I ask a lot of questions about (.) "How was it  
3631 before the revolution in 1989?"

3632 Henry: What sorts of things do they say?

3633 Anna: They say the difference is huge. They feel more independent. They don't  
3634 feel controlled anymore. I don't know what to say.

3635 Henry: No (.) of course. Obviously (.) neither of us were born then.

3636 Anna: Yes (.) they prefer it this way (.) the way things are going now rather than  
3637 how it was before.

3638 Henry: I suppose (.) also (.) it meant that you could go away and study somewhere  
3639 else? For them (.) is that a good thing because (.) "We can't keep her (.)"



3640 then? ((laughter)) Since moving (.) do you think you've adapted to the UK  
 3641 life quite successfully (.) then?

3642 Anna: Yes (.) I think so. I think I've adapted better than in Romania (.) actually.

3643 Henry: Really?

3644 Anna: Yes.

3645 Henry: In what sorts of ways? Could you expand on that? Take your time. We're  
 3646 not in any rush. These are hard questions.

3647 Anna: I think it was mainly about the people (.) like I said before. People are more  
 3648 friendly here (.) so you can express yourself a bit more. I don't feel that (.)  
 3649 here (.) people are so judgemental as they are back in Romania. It's my  
 3650 experience. I have some Romanian friends and their experience is just the  
 3651 other way around.

3652 Henry: If I'm interpreting this right (.) if your environment is positive and people  
 3653 want to talk and engage=

3654 Anna: =It's all about the society and the people (.) at least for me.

3655 Henry: Yes (.) I'm interested. In terms of what you're saying about back in  
 3656 Romania (.) people aren't as keen to talk to each other (.) then? Is that the  
 3657 general sense that you had (.) growing up?

3658 Anna: Well (.) they are (.) but it doesn't feel that friendly. Sometimes (.) it feels as  
 3659 if they have some sort of obligation to talk to you and to answer your  
 3660 questions.

3661 Henry: People don't seem as happy about it? They're just doing it because they  
 3662 have to?

3663 Anna: Yes (.) they seem grumpy.

3664 Henry: I understood earlier when you were saying (.) "I don't know why someone  
 3665 British would say that." Obviously (.) growing up in Romania (.) it might  
 3666 have more of a bearing on this particular angle. Why do you think people  
 3667 would be grumpy or feel obligated but not want to?

3668 Anna: I think they started to be grumpy 20-something years ago. When you can go  
 3669 anywhere and see how the other people are living and stuff like that (.)  
 3670 when you go back to your country and it's one century (.) Yes (.) I don't  
 3671 know. Maybe it's just about their way of living.

3672 Henry: Do you think (.) perhaps (.) in time it will get easier for people (.) then (.) as  
 3673 things catch up a bit?

3674 Anna: Yes.

3675 Henry: I don't know what it's like for you. Do you go back home very often?

3676 Anna: Yes (.) I do (.) or my parents come to visit me.

3677 Henry: They come to visit you?

3678 Anna: Yes.

3679 Henry: Oh (.) okay. That's interesting. Do they stay in a hotel in town (.) then?

3680 Anna: Yes.

3681 Henry: Which way around do you prefer it? Do you prefer going back home?

3682 Anna: I think it's both.

3683 Henry: You like both? You just like to see them?

3684 Anna: Yes (.) but (.) sometimes (.) I prefer going back home because it's not as if  
 3685 my whole family is going to come here (.) with my grandparents and  
 3686 everyone.

3687 Henry: No (.) of course (.) because it means that you can see everyone (.) then.

3688 Anna: Yes.

3689 Henry: It's also (.) to some extent (.) on your terms as well (.) isn't it (.) because (.)  
 3690 then (.) you can go out (.) see other people and do other things rather than  
 3691 look after your parents when they're here? ((laughter))

3692 Anna: Yes (.) I know that. ((laughter))

3693 Henry: It's interesting that you say they come to visit you. They must be quite keen  
 3694 on experiencing life here. Is it a few weeks or so when they stay or is it just  
 3695 a few nights?

3696 Anna: No (.) just a few days.

3697 Henry: Just a few days? It's not far on a plane (.) is it?

3698

3699 Anna: Two and a half hours.

3700 Henry: Yes (.) it's not too far (.) is it?

3701 Anna: No (.) that's right.

3702 Henry: I always think it's further away than it is. I'm not very good at geography.  
 3703 I'm interested in what you say about expressing yourself. Do you feel (.)  
 3704 when people move to different places (.) people should be able to be who  
 3705 they want to be and just express themselves (.) or do you think people  
 3706 should try and settle in and become more like the society they move to?

3707 Anna: I think it depends (.) because everyone has their own way (.) themselves. I  
 3708 think most of my Romanian friends just came here and they were like (.)  
 3709 "Okay (.) I'm never going to go back. I just want to stay here." I'm always  
 3710 asking them (.) "If you came here (.) why don't you go somewhere else (.)  
 3711 experience more (.) and maybe if you really like it here (.) come back after  
 3712 a few years or a few months?" Yes (.) from my experience so far (.) the UK  
 3713 is the best (.) I think.

3714 Henry: In terms of the question (.) then (.) do you feel like you should be open-  
3715 minded to be moving around (.) but still be yourself? That seems to be what  
3716 you're saying (.) then. You be yourself (.) experience different things and  
3717 change as you go through it?

3718 Anna: Yes (.) but people anyway tend to want to settle down somewhere.

3719 Henry: Do you have any idea where you'd like to settle down?

3720 Anna: At this point (.) no.

3721 Henry: It sounds like you're eager just to get on and see what there is out there (.)  
3722 really.

3723 Anna: Yes.

3724 Henry: Can you think of any other places that you'd like to visit? You were saying  
3725 about France and Switzerland?

3726 Anna: I've never been outside Europe (.) and I really want to go to Asia.

3727 Henry: Asia?

3728 Anna: Yes.

3729 Henry: Whereabouts in Asia? It's quite a big place (.) isn't it? ((laughter))

3730 Anna: Everywhere.

3731 Henry: Everywhere?

3732 Anna: Yes (.) I think.

3733 Henry: Oh (.) wow It's quite a big place to tick off the list (.) really (.) isn't it (.)  
3734 with all the different countries?

3735 Anna: When we're studying our data (.) it's just so crazy (.) when you see what  
3736 they're doing out there. We just want to go there (.) see and experience it  
3737 ourselves.

3738 Henry: It's places like Dubai (.) I suppose (.) and all the tall buildings there?

3739 Anna: Yes.

3740 Henry: I suppose St Basil's Cathedral in Russia? That's quite a bit of an  
3741 architecture (.) isn't it? Then (.) the Great Wall of China? There are all sorts  
3742 (.) aren't there? There is so much.

3743 Anna: Yes (.) I know.

3744 Henry: They're the sorts of things you want to see: those great (.) big monuments  
3745 and tall buildings?

3746 Anna: Yes. No (.) just about experiencing. I think at some point when I'm going  
3747 to be older (.) I'll have this feeling of wanting to settle down somewhere.

3748 Henry: But wait until you feel it?

3749 Anna: Yes.

3750 Henry: I don't know if there is anything you can say about this (.) but you're  
3751 obviously really passionate about architecture. That's what is always  
3752 coming out: that you're really passionate. What is it about a building?  
3753 What interests you about them?

3754 Anna: I don't know. It just makes you feel a certain way. Some people listen to  
3755 some piece of music and it makes them feel a certain way (.) and the same  
3756 happens to me when I am seeing a building or when I'm walking into a  
3757 building.

3758 Henry: What sorts of buildings do that for you? Is there a particular type of  
3759 building or is it a certain era or a certain design?

3760 Anna: I open my mind to everything (.) but I generally like open spaces.

3761 Henry: You like this sort of place (.) then (.) with all the glass?

3762 Anna: Yes (.) but this room (.) I really don't like. ((laughter)) It feels crowded.

3763 Henry: In terms of what? Because you can see everyone everywhere (.) with all the  
3764 glass and you can see all the rooms?

3765 Anna: Even for this room or what?

3766 Henry: Sorry (.) yes. I meant this building (.) but what were you↑?

3767 Anna: It's just because every time I am seeing a new building I like (.) I am trying  
3768 to think of what the architect was trying to do and what was he or she  
3769 thinking about. It's really challenging. People express themselves through  
3770 paintings and books (.) but I think that architecture is harder because when  
3771 you see a building (.) you can't be sure that he wants to talk about how the  
3772 wind blows into that building or stuff like that.

3773 Henry: It's tough (.) I suppose (.) because it's artistic but it's also functional.  
3774 Whereas a painting is just artistic (.) isn't it?

3775 Anna: Yes.

3776 Henry: Obviously (.) it does a function because it sits in a living room and it looks  
3777 nice. That is a function. I suppose with a building (.) it has to do certain  
3778 things as well. I can see why it's challenging (.) really. What about in the  
3779 UK - because we have quite a lot of old buildings here - in terms of the old  
3780 (.) medieval (.) gothic type?

3781 Anna: My architectural experience in the UK: I think it was the best. When you're  
3782 passionate about architecture (.) you want to go everywhere and see  
3783 everything. I think the UK is the best so far.

3784 Henry: You've been to some different places (.) then?

3785 Anna: Yes (.) because it's not only about having certain buildings. It's about  
3786 preserving them and having some moral concerns about=

3787 Henry: =It's pride (.) I suppose (.) for your heritage (.) isn't it (.) in a way?

3788 Anna: Yes.

3789 Henry: Yes (.) I remember you saying at the start about the conservation side. It's  
3790 something that appeals to you (.) the idea that you could go into a job where  
3791 you're looking after old buildings and maintaining them (.) then?

3792 Anna: Yes (.) that would be nice.

3793 Henry: There are places like (.) The Heritage Trust (.) is it? I think it's the Heritage  
3794 Trust in the UK. There are organisations that just do that (.) aren't there?  
3795 They just look after the old buildings.

3796 Anna: Yes. I think British people are more sensible (.) not only when it comes to  
3797 architecture (.) but (.) in general (.) they're more sensible about their way of  
3798 living and doing their jobs.

3799 Henry: It's an interesting point you raise (.) I suppose (.) because if there is one  
3800 thing that you find quite a lot of (.) it's a lot of debate and a lot of drama  
3801 about countryside (.) maintaining the countryside and keeping the  
3802 tranquillity. With all the old buildings (.) Stonehenge and all these sorts (.)  
3803 "We've got to keep it as it is. We've got to freeze time and maintain it."  
3804 There is a real sense of that. I suppose you probably see it a lot with  
3805 architecture (.) with all the listed buildings (.) where you can only do certain  
3806 things to it because you can't damage it?

3807 Anna: There was one in Sheffield: Park Hill.

3808 Henry: Park Hill?

3809 Anna: It's near the train station.

3810 Henry: Which way from the train station?

3811 Anna: As you go up to that hill at the back of the train station.

3812 Henry: I'm trying to think. Is it near the Owen Building (.) near City Campus? Is it  
3813 near there?

3814 Anna: Yes.

3815 Henry: I'm trying to think. My knowledge of Sheffield is not that good.

3816 Anna: It's fine. Don't worry.

3817 Henry: What sort of place is Park Hill?

3818 Anna: It's a residential area (.) with flats for people. If you remember (.) it has  
3819 coloured glass on the windows (.) with red (.) green and yellow.

3820 Henry: No (.) I don't know. I'm just interested in what you're saying about it being  
3821 a=

3822 Anna: =I really think that British people are more sensible when it comes to  
3823 everything.

3824 Henry: What about when it compares to Romania (.) then? Does Romania have that  
3825 same sense of 'sensible' or that appreciation or desire to maintain old  
3826 buildings? Is there a similar thing there?

3827 Anna: I think they have this (.) but only to a certain extent (.) because when you're  
3828 living in a developing country (.) you also have to think about the money. If  
3829 it's not suitable for you to keep that building (.) you have to hike=

3830 Henry: =There is a tension there? You see a tension between the country wanting  
3831 to move on and get in the world and preserving its history?

3832 Anna: Yes. It's quite a=

3833 Henry: =You take a position that we should try and look after those buildings no  
3834 matter what?

3835 Anna: Yes (.) kind of.

3836 Henry: It's interesting (.) because it's something that's quite easy to neglect (.) isn't  
3837 it (.) where you've come from than just to think of where you're going to?

3838 Anna: Yes.

3839 Henry: It's an interesting thing. I'm just trying to think now we're talking about  
3840 buildings. I think it's really interesting because we experience them every  
3841 day (.) don't we?

3842 Anna: Yes.

3843 Henry: We take them totally for granted. I think with architecture (.) you can  
3844 actually take a moment and think (.) "What's going on there?" I can see  
3845 why you're passionate because it's something that is so important. We need  
3846 buildings (.) and we need good buildings. You certainly know when a  
3847 building is badly designed (.) don't you (.) when it doesn't do the function  
3848 you want it to?

3849 Anna: I hope so.

3850 Henry: I don't know if there is anything else you want to add. We've talked about  
3851 quite a lot (.) really (.) haven't we? I'm just thinking anything about  
3852 buildings now. I'm going to go and study Architecture now. You've  
3853 persuaded me. I don't know if there is anything you want to talk to me  
3854 about in terms of your experience of moving around and in terms of where  
3855 you want to be (.) or if there is anything you were expecting to be asked and  
3856 haven't been.

3857 Anna: When I moved here (.) it was a bit strange because when I met Romanian  
3858 people (.) they were sticking to each other. Do you see what I mean? I was  
3859 more like (.) "Let's have international friends (.) let's have Romanian  
3860 friends (.) and let's have all kinds of friends I know (.)" but they were more  
3861 sticking to each other (.) and they are still doing that thing.

3862 Henry: You see that as perhaps a challenge (.) then: that people feel tempted (.)  
3863 when they move around (.) to stick to what they know?

3864 Anna: Yes (.) I think so.

3865 Henry: Whereas (.) in your experience (.) it's almost like what you were saying  
3866 about moving to different countries. It's not so much of an issue. Just chat  
3867 to loads of people (.) just get to know people (.) and be open-minded.

3868 Anna: Yes. Basically (.) it's all about the experience. I just want to make sure I  
3869 have as much experience as I can have. It's about knowledge. It's not about  
3870 sticking to Romanian people when we move to the UK just because (.) I  
3871 don't know why.

3872 Henry: Feel free to have a think about. Is it something where (.) perhaps (.) your  
3873 Romanian friends attach a lot of significance to being Romanian?

3874 Anna: Maybe.

3875 Henry: That you have a common language (.) a common culture and that's what is  
3876 important? Whereas (.) for you (.) it doesn't seem like it comes out as  
3877 strongly (.) because you seem quite keen to=

3878 Anna: =It actually is. I really love my country and I really love Romanian people.  
3879 I think it's good for you to experience more. If you make the effort to move  
3880 here and start from the beginning (.) at least do it properly.

3881 Henry: Rather than just do half of it?

3882 Anna: Yes.

3883 Henry: Yes (.) it's an interesting point (.) then (.) because it's flexing the tension.  
3884 With when you go (.) what are you actually taking with you? Is it your  
3885 entire culture or is it just enough to get by with what you know (.) like what  
3886 you were saying about cooking Romanian food is a break for you (.) but  
3887 then it doesn't seem to dominate everything you do?

3888 Anna: Yes. I don't think it's really a Romanian thing because I've met Chinese  
3889 people sticking together and Indian people sticking together.

3890 Henry: It's the power of culture (.) I suppose (.) isn't it (.) and sticking to the  
3891 familiar?

3892 Anna: Yes.

3893 Henry: Is there anything else that you wanted to↑

3894 Anna: I was just wondering: Why are you doing this research?

3895 Henry: Why am I doing it?

3896 Anna: Yes.

3897 Henry: Well (.) I suppose there are two things about it (.) really. The first thing is  
3898 (.) as a British person living in the UK (.) over time (.) I've become quite  
3899 aware of how problematic we find movement. Like I said earlier (.) I  
3900 presumed that you would have been exposed to the amount of coverage in  
3901 the media and things simply because I've been exposed to it all my life. It's  
3902 like a 'perspective' thing. I suppose it's not hard to believe (.) but it's

3903 surprising in some ways. It's positive (.) really (.) because (.) most of it (.)  
 3904 you wouldn't want to read every day. We just simply find it really difficult  
 3905 to cope with people moving around (.) even though a lot of British people  
 3906 emigrate. In Spain (.) for example (.) we have an awful reputation for just=

3907 Anna: =Really?

3908 Henry: Places like Benidorm: we've made a television programme about it in the  
 3909 UK (.) but it's the notion that we go to a place and we populate it like an  
 3910 English place. They do an English breakfast. It's tea and all the things that  
 3911 we want. Spanish-speaking communities are often pushed out and then we  
 3912 take over. That's the holiday destination for most people when they retire  
 3913 (.) but then when it comes to the idea that someone might come here and  
 3914 live here (.) "You can't do that." We seem to have this weird attitude (.) so  
 3915 as a British person (.) I'm aware of that and I'm trying to think about how  
 3916 we talk about that and how we make sense of that (.) but in relation to how  
 3917 people that move here make sense of it. The Romanian focus is quite  
 3918 arbitrary (.) to be honest (.) because it's a desire to learn about a group of  
 3919 people that are moving here as a relatively new phenomenon (.) because (.)  
 3920 obviously (.) with the Berlin Wall and the more recent EU accession (.) it's  
 3921 a relatively new thing. In 20 years (.) if not more recently in the past 5 years  
 3922 (.) a lot of Romanians have come to live here. Obviously (.) with the work  
 3923 visas (.) you've been able to come for quite a few years (.) but with the  
 3924 study stuff (.) it's all happening now. My reasoning (.) really (.) is that just  
 3925 as far as research goes (.) there is not a lot that is known about (.) "What's  
 3926 the experience of people that come to live here?"

3927 Anna: There was this presidential election in Romania two weeks ago (.) and  
 3928 people from abroad were just going mad about this. They were like (.) "We  
 3929 really want to go back home."

3930 Henry: What (.) to vote?

3931 Anna: Yes. Not to vote. Just moving back home for good and for living there.

3932 Henry: What was going on there (.) then? Why were people sparked by the election  
 3933 (.) then (.) to move back?

3934 Anna: I'm not sure (.) but I think one of the candidates was into the Russian  
 3935 system. Then (.) the other one was more open to the euro and making  
 3936 contact with other European countries. People who were living abroad were  
 3937 like (.) "This country has to continue its development (.) because we would  
 3938 really like to move back home." I think most of them find it really hard to  
 3939 move and leave their families.

3940 Henry: It's an interesting thing you're talking about there because=

3941 Anna: =Some of them (.) Sorry?

3942 Henry: No (.) that's fine. No (.) of course.

3943 Anna: I was talking to some of them. Obviously (.) you adapt to a place when you  
 3944 are there (.) but they were like (.) "Oh (.) when I'm going to bed (.) I'm still  
 3945 thinking about my family and my friends in Romania."



3946 Henry: This is of the people that are studying here (.) is it?

3947 Anna: Some of them are students and some of them are 40 or 50-years-old.

3948 Henry: They're finding that separation really difficult?

3949 Anna: Yes (.) even after 15 or 20 years (.) they're still saying the same thing.

3950 Henry: That's really powerful. I don't know how you find this (.) but it seems hard  
 3951 to imagine how someone could be carrying on living in that way (.) missing  
 3952 their family so much.

3953 Anna: Yes (.) I know.

3954 Henry: I suppose (.) if that's the only way you can find work and pay the bills (.)  
 3955 it's tough (.) isn't it? What you were saying about the election (.) then (.)  
 3956 it's almost like there were two ways of facing: towards Europe or towards  
 3957 Russia. It echoes a little bit what has happened in the Ukraine recently (.)  
 3958 doesn't it? That was what happened there (.) wasn't it: either further  
 3959 integration with Europe or move towards Russia (.) who supplies all their  
 3960 oil?

3961 Anna: Yes.

3962 Henry: It's an interesting question because I suppose it's about (.) "What does it  
 3963 mean to be Romanian? Where do we want to be in the world?" It's an  
 3964 interesting question (.) isn't it?

3965 Anna: I think (.) at this moment (.) Romanian people just don't care. At least since  
 3966 I was born (.) it has been like that. They generally don't tend to have an  
 3967 opinion. They are like (.) "We just want to be here with happy ever after (.)  
 3968 and that's it."

3969 Henry: Not think about other stuff? "Just let us live and be happy"?

3970 Anna: Yes.

3971 Henry: I suppose it's about not committing. It's a fixed position (.) but just a  
 3972 general (.) "Let us be"?

3973 Anna: Yes. It is just because of so many years of communism. They don't have  
 3974 hope anymore. They're just like (.) "We just want to be happy and live  
 3975 here."

3976 Henry: And be left alone?

3977 Anna: Yes.

3978 Henry: Do you feel that's the effect of living in an authoritarian state that is  
 3979 monitoring everyone's movements. What were they called? Is it the Stasi?  
 3980 That might be a different equivalent (.) but (.) You said that people maybe  
 3981 want to move back. I wonder if one of the particular sides won the election  
 3982 (.) it meant something about the direction the country would go in (.) and  
 3983 that might make them happier living there.

3984 Anna: Yes (.) and people were really worried about the elections (.) because I  
3985 think in the past 30 or 40 years (.) we knew people just hated immigrants (.)  
3986 if you see what I mean. Not 'hated' (.) but they had that attitude that their  
3987 place was not there. The new president is German. He's from a German  
3988 family (.) but he was born and raised in Romania.

3989 Henry: Yes (.) so he's like a second-generation immigrant (.) born as a Romanian  
3990 but family (.) German?

3991 Anna: Yes. I was really surprised.

3992 Henry: That he has managed to get to the top?

3993 Anna: Yes (.) I was very surprised that Romanians actually voted for that guy.

3994 Henry: It's interesting. What does that say? Is it saying that they're not bothered  
3995 about his background (.) or is it that they like his background and that's part  
3996 of it? It's interesting (.) isn't it?

3997 Anna: I think it says that they're more open-minded than they were before. The  
3998 older people: not my grandparents (.) but just grandparents in general and  
3999 people of 70 or 80-years-old prefer going towards Russia. Maybe it's just  
4000 because for more than half of their life (.) they've lived in that=

4001 Henry: =It's what they've always known?

4002 Anna: Yes. I was really pleased to see that they have this sense of going to the  
4003 right direction.

4004 Henry: I suppose when you're saying (.) 'right direction' (.) for you (.) that's  
4005 democracy?

4006 Anna: Yes.

4007 Henry: It's interesting (.) isn't it (.) because it's trying to get into the head of  
4008 someone who would want to live in a regime like that?

4009 Anna: Yes.

4010 Henry: I agree with you. It's how we would see it (.) isn't it (.) because that's all  
4011 we've known?

4012 Anna: Yes.

4013 Henry: Again (.) it's what we know (.) but then it feels right (.) that giving people a  
4014 say. You were saying about the chap who won the election with the German  
4015 descent and background. What sort of party does he belong to? What sort of  
4016 politics do they?

4017 Anna: I'm not sure.

4018 Henry: It's not something like a left (.) a Conservative or a Labour Party?

4019 Anna: I think he switched from one=

4020 Henry: =Oh (.) did he move from one party to another or something?

4021 Anna: I'm not sure. Maybe they joined together. I'm not sure (.) because I was  
4022 doing a project. I was away (.) so I didn't really bother that much. I was  
4023 really busy.

4024 Henry: I was just wondering whether you knew (.) because it also says a lot about  
4025 where on the spectrum they are as to what they talk about and what the  
4026 issues are. Then (.) that obviously affects how people want to vote for them.

4027 Anna: The Liberals or something like that. I'm not sure.

4028 Henry: He's probably promising lots of tax cuts. ((laughter)) Is there anything  
4029 about Romania that you feel like you want to talk about? We've talked  
4030 about the political context. Is there anything about the culture (.) language  
4031 or anything that (.) at least since moving to the UK (.) that you've reflected  
4032 on more?

4033 Anna: I find the language very hard to learn.

4034 Henry: Is this English?

4035 Anna: Romanian.

4036 Henry: Romanian?

4037 Anna: I've studied (.) apart from English (.) French (.) Russian and a bit of  
4038 Turkish (.) and Romanian seems so hard. Not as a native speaker. I don't  
4039 think you're aware of that (.) but when you have more knowledge about  
4040 other languages (.) you are like (.) "Whoa (.) this is really hard."

4041 Henry: You think that even though you've learnt English? English is supposed to  
4042 have a reputation for being hard to learn (.) doesn't it?

4043 Anna: Really?

4044 Henry: That's what people have told me. Obviously (.) I don't know that because  
4045 English is my mother tongue. Then (.) because we have so many exceptions  
4046 to the rule and we don't have a very clear structure for words (.) You know  
4047 like with German (.) you have masculine (.) feminine a↑nd?

4048 Anna: Yes (.) I know (.) but English is so logical compared to Romanian.

4049 Henry: It doesn't seem to follow the same rules? Not the same rules (.) but it  
4050 doesn't seem to follow a rule system (.) then?

4051 Anna: Yes.

4052 Henry: It's interesting you say that (.) then. It's a romance language (.) isn't it? It's  
4053 like Italian (.) French and Spanish (.) then?

4054 Anna: Yes. It's really weird because we can actually understand when French (.)  
4055 Italian (.) Spanish and Portuguese people talk (.) but they can't understand  
4056 us. ((laughter))

4057 Henry: How does that work? That is weird.

4058 Anna: I don't know. Yes (.) it's really weird.

4059 Henry: Is that something from your own experience or your own beliefs? Is that  
4060 something that Romanians value: that their language is a romance language  
4061 and it's a Latin language? Is that something that is quite important or ever  
4062 talked about?

4063 Anna: Yes (.) I think so. When I used to study (.) all the teachers were like (.)  
4064 "Don't forget that we're speaking a language which was derived from  
4065 Latin."

4066 Henry: They would make a point of saying it?

4067 Anna: Yes (.) they would keep on talking about Roman people and Latin stock.

4068 Henry: The history?

4069 Anna: I think they are quite proud.

4070 Henry: It's interesting. I (.) personally (.) was surprised when I was researching it  
4071 and learning a little bit more. I would have thought it would be a Slavic  
4072 language (.) simply because of where in the world Romania sits or the other  
4073 surrounding countries and the Slavic languages. Is there a border with  
4074 Greece?

4075 Anna: No.

4076 Henry: There might not be. Obviously (.) we've got the Mediterranean connection  
4077 (.) but the rest of it is Slavic (.) isn't it? I find it really surprising. It's like an  
4078 odd one out. Yes (.) it was just interesting. From what you said (.) it does  
4079 matter?

4080 Anna: Yes. Actually (.) most people who live in the UK now have lived here for  
4081 15 or 20 years. They are all saying (.) "Oh (.) I miss my beautiful country."  
4082 They are always talking about the landscape and the villages.

4083 Henry: They miss the country?

4084 Anna: Yes.

4085 Henry: Are there quite a lot of small villages in Romania (.) then? Is that more  
4086 rural?

4087 Anna: I don't think at the moment (.) it's more rural. I haven't asked them (.) but I  
4088 think 30 or 40 years ago (.) there were more villages than cities and towns.

4089 Henry: It has become more urbanised (.) I suppose (.) as it has developed more?

4090 Anna: Yes.

4091 Henry: What about Bucharest (.) then (.) as a city growing up in? Obviously (.) it's  
4092 the capital city (.) so it's the place to be (.) isn't it?

4093 Anna: I really like it. At some point in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century (.) people were  
4094 saying that it resembled Paris. People still stick to that idea.

4095 Henry: Well (.) understandably. It says good things about it (.) I suppose (.) doesn't  
4096 it?

4097 Anna: Yes. I really like it. Actually (.) I feel safer back in Romania than here.

4098 Henry: Is that because of what's familiar and what's known to you then (.) do you  
4099 think?

4100 Anna: No (.) not really. When I'm thinking about criminals and people being  
4101 robbed and so on (.) I think Romania is safer. It just feels safer. I think in  
4102 the past three months (.) five or six of my friends were robbed in Sheffield?

4103 Henry: Really?

4104 Anna: Yes.

4105 Henry: Wow. In one go? Was it all part of the same thing?

4106 Anna: No.

4107 Henry: Separately?

4108 Anna: Separate (.) yes.

4109 Henry: Gosh. That's a string of bad luck (.) isn't it (.) all in one go?

4110 Anna: Yes.

4111 Henry: Were they at all connected or the same person?

4112 Anna: No (.) not all of them were Romanian (.) actually.

4113 Henry: It wasn't like in the same area (.) someone was going from house to house  
4114 (.) robbing?

4115 Anna: Yes. I feel safer being there.

4116 Henry: Understandably (.) it only takes something like that so close to you to make  
4117 you realise (.) "God (.) it can happen." It won't necessarily happen (.) but it  
4118 can happen. You say you feel safer. I imagine there is quite a lot to do in  
4119 the capital (.) and growing up (.) there must have been stuff to do all the  
4120 time. Being an only child (.) it must have been great for you (.) having stuff  
4121 to do every weekend and things?

4122 Anna: Yes. There are so many opportunities (.) but people are not that involved  
4123 there as they are here. For example (.) I went volunteering for a thing  
4124 for about two years (.) to help children improve their literacy skills. We had  
4125 40 or 50 children (.) and there were only three hours.

4126 Henry: Wow. This was a voluntary thing?

4127 Anna: Yes.

4128 Henry: Wow. That's intense.

4129 Anna: Yes.

4130 Henry: Oh (.) gosh. How long were you giving to that? How much time were you  
4131 committing to it?

4132 Anna: It was three hours per week (.) I think (.) because it was all different topics.  
 4133 One hour for Maths (.) one hour for studying Romanian (.) and then the  
 4134 other one was just their choice. They were saying (.) “I want to know more  
 4135 about history.” or art. I just helped them. I think and I hope this thing is  
 4136 beginning to grow. My friends from high school (.) when I was talking to  
 4137 them (.) were like: “Okay (.) we’re going to talk later because I’m going to  
 4138 do some volunteering work now.” Yes (.) I think people are starting to  
 4139 realise (.) “We can be involved in lots of things.”

4140 Henry: I suppose it’s that community spirit of getting involved and doing things?

4141 Anna: Yes.

4142 Henry: There is not as much of that (.) then?

4143 Anna: No (.) it wasn’t good. Oh (.) 20 or 30 years ago (.) we woke up in the  
 4144 morning (.) we’d go to the job (.) go back home (.) and that was it.

4145 Henry: I suppose it’s a cultural thing (.) isn’t it (.) trying to shift people’s habits  
 4146 into thinking more openly about doing stuff?

4147 Anna: Yes. I was really surprised because my mother was working in a hospital  
 4148 back home and she asked me if she could give some of my toys to an  
 4149 orphanage (.) which was somewhere in Africa (.) I think. I was really  
 4150 surprised that they were doing those sorts of projects.

4151 Henry: That she was thinking about what to do with them?

4152 Anna: Yes.

4153 Henry: It must have been quite nice for you (.) then (.) what with your volunteering  
 4154 and things (.) to have that? It’s obviously difficult because you’re thinking  
 4155 (.) “What are you getting rid of?” “Let me look at it first.” ((laughter))

4156 Anna: Yes. ((laughter))

4157 Henry: Nice (.) nonetheless. What does your dad do? You say your mum is a nurse  
 4158 (.) then. What does your dad do?

4159 Anna: He’s an engineer. He’s working in construction.

4160 Henry: You’ve followed in a similar? Obviously (.) not the same thing (.) but it’s↑=

4161 Anna: =Maybe just a bit because when he was working from home (.) I was  
 4162 always like (.) “Oh (.) what’s this? Why does this fall like that?”

4163 Henry: You sound like you were the sort of child that was always asking questions.

4164 Anna: Oh (.) yes (.) I’m so annoying. I’m still so annoying. ((laughter))

4165

4166 Henry: Yes (.) I was like it quite a lot when I was younger. I was asking questions.  
 4167 “Why?” “Well (.) why?” “I don’t know why. It just is.” As a child (.)  
 4168 looking back now (.) I think (.) “Oh (.) I feel sorry for them.” “Why is it  
 4169 round?” “Well (.) I don’t know. It just is. I’ve never thought about it before

4170 and I'm having to answer to a child." ((laughter)) Do all of your family live  
4171 in Bucharest?

4172 Anna: Yes.

4173 Henry: You've more or less grown up in the same patch and everyone is around  
4174 you and local?

4175 Anna: Yes.

4176 Henry: I suppose you've travelled across Romania as you've grown up then (.)  
4177 have you?

4178 Anna: Yes. Every time I'm going back home (.) I'm like (.) "Let's go somewhere.  
4179 Let's visit someplace."

4180 Henry: You've always got an itinerary of what you want to do (.) then?

4181 Anna: Yes (.) because there is always something you can see. There is always  
4182 something new (.) because it's quite a huge country. As a surface (.) I mean.

4183 Henry: Yes (.) well (.) much bigger than England is anyway (.) isn't it?

4184 Anna: Yes.

4185 Henry: The other city I know (.) and the participants said they lived just out of it (.)  
4186 Is it Iași? It's the second largest city. I think it's got two universities.

4187 Anna: Iași?

4188 Henry: Iași? Is that it? Sorry. That's the only city I know of.

4189 Anna: Yes (.) I think that's my favourite city in Romania.

4190 Henry: Is it?

4191 Anna: Yes.

4192 Henry: In terms of things to do (.) I suppose? There must be a lot to do (.) because  
4193 it's supposed to be known for all of its cultural history and that (.) isn't it?

4194 Anna: Yes.

4195 Henry: Is there anything more you want to talk about? I'm out of questions. If you  
4196 want to talk to me about any more (.) I'm happy to listen. It's really  
4197 interesting to listen to you talk about Romania (.) because (.) obviously (.)  
4198 like you say (.) you're really passionate about everything (.) aren't you?  
4199 You're a very passionate person.

4200 Anna: Yes. I've met a few British people who have travelled to Romania. They  
4201 were so pleased by the landscape (.) but they were saying that people in the  
4202 villages were a bit grumpy and not that friendly. I think this happens only in  
4203 the remote areas.

4204 Henry: Yes (.) that aren't as exposed to all this stuff?

4205 Anna: Yes. Most of them had a really positive idea about Romania and they really  
4206 enjoyed their trip and experience there.

4207 Henry: Is it a matter of engaging with people in a positive way? Is it that  
4208 'grumpiness' issue of saying (.) "What do you want?"

4209 Anna: Yes (.) there is that.

4210 Henry: Is it them realising that I'm just here to explore what it's like and (.)  
4211 "Welcome"?

4212 Anna: Yes (.) I think so. I think people (.) when they travel to Romania (.) they  
4213 really like it because it's so different than the other countries. It looks  
4214 savage at some point (.) with the landscapes and everything (.) but because  
4215 it's not such a developed country (.) you could still find those beautiful  
4216 landscapes.

4217 Henry: What (.) untouched by industry?

4218 Anna: Yes.

4219 Henry: Yes (.) not like Germany or somewhere that has flattened everything and  
4220 everything has got buildings?

4221 Anna: Yes.

4222 Henry: There are quite a lot of mountains (.) forests and natural scenery (.) then?

4223 Anna: Yes.

4224 Henry: The sorts of things you would want to find on a postcard?

4225 Anna: Yes.

4226 Henry: When you think about a place to grow up in (.) to have that on your  
4227 doorstep (.) it's quite nice (.) isn't it (.) than to live in a more urbanised  
4228 environment where you're not exposed to so much green? In the capital (.)  
4229 it must have been quite nice for you to get out the countryside?

4230 Anna: Yes. I think I spent all of my summers with some of my grandparents  
4231 because they were living somewhere near the mountains. I was there for  
4232 three months every summer.

4233 Henry: You must have learnt quite a lot (.) living there as well (.) then (.) because I  
4234 suppose it would have been a lot more basic living (.) wouldn't it?

4235 Anna: Yes.

4236 Henry: Not quite everything at your beck and call (.) with dishwashers and the rest  
4237 of it? It would have been more basic (.) wouldn't it?

4238 Anna: Yes.

4239 Henry: If you could make a choice (.) then (.) if you were to move back (.) of living  
4240 in the city or living in the countryside (.) would that be a hard decision for  
4241 you?



4242 Anna: I think so.

4243 Henry: Yes (.) because you like the benefits of both?

4244 Anna: Yes (.) obviously.

4245 Henry: It's hard to think (.) really (.) what I prefer. I like the idea that I'm on the  
 4246 edge and I can go to both and get the benefits of the both. You don't want  
 4247 to be in the middle of nowhere and can't get anywhere. That's the only  
 4248 thing (.) isn't it?

4249 Anna: Yes.

4250 Henry: Is it hard to get around in Romania (.) in terms of the roads and the rail  
 4251 links?

4252 Anna: Well (.) I think it's better with the roads now (.) but 10 or 15 years ago (.) it  
 4253 was awful. I remember my parents talking about a trip when they were  
 4254 going to the sea (.) and it took six hours. Now (.) it takes about 2½ to 3  
 4255 hours to get there.

4256 Henry: Yes (.) I can imagine the quality of the drive would have been ((laughter))=

4257 Anna: =Yes (.) so terrible (.) but now (.) it's better.

4258 Henry: To be honest (.) I don't think it's very good here (.) really. It would  
 4259 probably be better in Romania (.) as a developing country (.) than it is here.  
 4260 Some of our roads are awful.

4261 Anna: Really?

4262 Henry: Yes. Well (.) I think it's to do with maintenance and people don't want to  
 4263 commit the money. "It's fine if they get done (.) but I'm not paying for it."  
 4264 ((laughter))

4265 Anna: Yes (.) that's weird.

4266 Henry: What time are we on?

4267 Anna: No idea.

4268 Henry: I'm quite happy to stop here (.) if you're happy to do that.

4269 Anna: Yes (.) that's fine by me.

4270 Henry: Yes? Is that alright?

4271 Anna: Yes.

4272 Henry: I'll turn off the recorder now. ((transcript ends))

*Transcript 5: Marina*

- 4273 Henry: I would like to start going back to before (.) away from any of the migration  
4274 stuff and just tell me a bit about yourself really. Obviously you are a student  
4275 at Sheffield. What do you study?
- 4276 Marina: I am doing MSc in East Asian Business at the moment. I graduated in  
4277 Psychology in the UK and I have also done a study abroad (.) exchange  
4278 programme in Japan in 2012. When I went there (.) basically (.) I was doing  
4279 my course although I didn't really do my course in Japan. I did more of  
4280 Japanese language and a lot of other courses that were meant to be related  
4281 to what I was studying here but actually they weren't. In practice they  
4282 weren't really. And about myself (.) in general I guess I identify myself as  
4283 an international student (.) not international in terms of the UK definition (.)  
4284 like standard definitions of EU. But I think it is quite strongly embedded in  
4285 my identity the fact that I am a student (.) still a student even though I  
4286 already worked in the UK for a year for example and other reasons for why  
4287 I would identify myself in other sorts of ways maybe. Yes (.) I don't know  
4288 exactly what else.
- 4289 Henry: Okay (.) yes that is fine. Whereabouts in Romania are you from?
- 4290 Marina: I am from up North in the country so I am not from the capital. I am from a  
4291 fairly small town I would say (.) I mean quite small.
- 4292 Henry: So it was quite a rural lifestyle then (.) sort of countryside and? Is that sort  
4293 of?
- 4294 Marina: Yes (.) I mean it was a quiet place. People knew each other (.) all of them  
4295 being between like a small town and not very developed I would say (.)  
4296 sometimes. Even though saying that I am not from the capital (.) I spent  
4297 quite a lot of money because I moved to the UK as soon as I was 18 years  
4298 old which is the legal age in my country. Saying that (.) even before I  
4299 moved here I did spend a lot of time in Bucharest which is the capital (.) so  
4300 I was sort of used to a big city and stuff.
- 4301 Henry: Yes. So you grew up in what you would say probably quite a quiet (.)  
4302 everyone knows each other (.) a local place but then you were still quite  
4303 happy going into the city and experiencing life there then?
- 4304 Marina: Yes (.) that is right.
- 4305 Henry: Oh okay then. What about your family background then? Are you the first  
4306 go to uni or is that? Did your parents go?
- 4307 Marina: My parents didn't graduate uni or didn't finish uni but I think I am lucky to  
4308 come from a family that has quite a good education (.) like educational  
4309 background. And I am actually quite lucky to be able to say this but in my  
4310 town my family was quite well known and at least my grandparents' family  
4311 they were quite wealthy as well and I guess that made an impact on my  
4312 education. Because I was brought up by my grandparents when I was young  
4313 (.) more or less. I mean I have sort of seen my grandparents as my parents

4314 more than I have seen my parents (.) if that makes sense. So they are the  
 4315 ones who educated me and directed me like more or less. Both of my  
 4316 parents went quite high in university and they had quite good positions  
 4317 when I was young so (.)

4318 Henry: Okay (.) so it felt quite a natural decision then?

4319 Marina: To go university (.) it did yes. I mean that is a lot about how Romania  
 4320 works as well but I think (.) I don't know nowadays but the number of  
 4321 students of my age attending university is quite high in Romania I believe.

4322 Henry: In Romania?

4323 Marina: Yes (.) it should be. Because I have checked some statistics on that actually  
 4324 and I know that about (.) I don't know 20 years ago it was very low which  
 4325 makes sense because of the Communist system but now I think it is  
 4326 supposed to be quite high as compared to other European countries because  
 4327 I don't know (.) but all my friends and I don't come from like a big city or  
 4328 the greatest one but there wasn't really a choice for me. I never ever  
 4329 considered not going. It was like I almost took that for granted (.) it was the  
 4330 next natural stage to take.

4331 Henry: Yes (.) so when you were at school getting close to finishing it just felt like  
 4332 (.) "I'm off to uni then." That sort of thing?

4333 Marina: Yes. It is like (.) "Oh okay I'm just going to next grade."

4334 Henry: Yes (.) oh okay and you say that is how your other friends were then as  
 4335 well?

4336 Marina: Yes (.) I think so. Yes (.) obviously. I remember my first year in the UK I  
 4337 worked as a student ambassador (.) you know what that is?

4338 Henry: Yes (.) yes representing the students of the (.) Was it one year group (.) just  
 4339 the first years was it or the second years?

4340 Marina: I can't remember.

4341 Henry: Or was it just everyone?

4342 Marina: Yes (.) everyone. I was just working for the union as a student ambassador  
 4343 and we worked with prospective students (.) people that were thinking (.)

4344 Henry: Oh open days (.) that sort of thing?

4345 Marina: Yes.

4346 Henry: Oh I see (.) yes sorry. I thought you meant on the course (.) sometimes you  
 4347 have student ambassadors for the course.

4348 Marina: Oh no.

4349 Henry: But don't worry about it.

4350 Marina: Well I mean I would do things like that on the course as well but no I am  
 4351 talking about (.) I think that is called course rep and I did that as well.

4352 Henry: You are very productive aren't you?

4353 Marina: I am quite involved with a lot of things I think or I used to be. And yes I  
4354 was being in a student ambassador in my first year working basically (.) it  
4355 was a part-time job I had. And we did both open days and we did these  
4356 school visits where prospective students would come there. At the training  
4357 sessions (.) we were just so more encouraged to convince to come to  
4358 university (.) not necessarily to our university which I would have  
4359 understood (.) it is the case that is why I am paid to get people to come  
4360 there so the university can grow. But we were like encouraged to convince  
4361 them to come to university and I was like "Why?" It was so surprising for  
4362 me the emphasis that was made on that because I thought (.) "That's just (.)  
4363 " It was weird (.) it was really weird. I don't know exactly how to convey it  
4364 now. Now I am used to it and I know it is important and you need to  
4365 emphasise that to young people (.) to promote higher education and stuff.  
4366 But at that point back then for me it was quite (.) "Why would you need to  
4367 do that? People are already aware that they need to go to university (.) they  
4368 need to (.) " For me it was something that everyone wishes (.) it was natural  
4369 for people of my age obviously to want to go.

4370 Henry: Forgive me if this might seem like maybe putting words into your mouth (.)  
4371 feel free to disagree with it but did it feel like a cultural thing perhaps that it  
4372 just felt so natural to you that you would value education (.) why does it  
4373 need to be?

4374 Marina: Oh no you are not putting things into my mouth actually. It is helpful  
4375 because it helps me develop my ideas. I think it has to. I think it is true that  
4376 Romanians will be more likely to think like me if that is already where you  
4377 are heading to.

4378 Henry: Well I suppose it is because what you were saying earlier (.) it felt really  
4379 natural for you to go to uni so it almost seems like growing up (.) you  
4380 speaking it for your generation that that is a natural thing that you guys  
4381 were taught from a young age. The idea of coming here is a course rep and  
4382 then trying to promote the young people here to go to uni it is sort of like (.)  
4383 why do you need to? Because it felt natural to you. I suppose I was just  
4384 putting pieces together maybe. I don't know what your thoughts are?

4385 Marina: No that makes sense. I do think that it is a cultural thing as well. I think  
4386 Romanians because of the way our education works and the way we have  
4387 been sometimes directed by our chosen school and yes (.) Even now (.)  
4388 look (.) this is a very good example because it is hands-on. You asked me  
4389 like if (.) you started with this question saying that (.) "Well was it  
4390 something that you've long considered?" And I was like (.) "Oh yes  
4391 obviously." I didn't expect you to ask that. Like as I said now I know what  
4392 it means and why people keep emphasising that but I still didn't expect you.  
4393 I wasn't surprised this time because you asked. Just to make it clear (.) I  
4394 wasn't surprised you asked but I still didn't think that would be the first  
4395 question.

4396 Henry: Well I suppose they are little pieces aren't they and they help make sense of  
4397 the bigger decisions don't they? Because they are all little influences aren't  
4398 they? If you don't mind me asking how old are you?

4399 Marina: 23.

4400 Henry: 23 so.

4401 Marina: 5 years here (.) a lot.

4402 Henry: 5 years (.) yes. This might be asking for you to go back in time quite a way  
4403 but can you describe to me (.) could you relate back to your thoughts that  
4404 were leading up to? So you were just about to finish school and you knew  
4405 that you were going to go to uni (.) what made you choose Sheffield? What  
4406 brought you to that point (.) can you remember?

4407 Marina: You mean what made me choose Essex because that is where I went first.

4408 Henry: Oh Essex (.) that was for your undergraduate and then you came here for  
4409 your (.) Sorry (.) yes.

4410 Marina: That is alright (.) don't worry. So what made me choose Essex and made  
4411 me choose to come to the UK as well?

4412 Henry: Yes (.) all those (.) yes.

4413 Marina: Well I guess it is a bit (.) Yes (.) I need to think back. I guess it was (.) I  
4414 really (.) personally I really wanted to study abroad and it was (.) is that 11  
4415 or 12 grade here? It was basically 2 years before I was going to graduate  
4416 from High School or College and I started thinking about where I was  
4417 going to university and where I wanted to study. I knew what I wanted to  
4418 study (.) I knew I was going to do psychology but I started thinking where.  
4419 And my options were really there is this university in the city next to where  
4420 I lived (.) where I am from or the capital really. Because the other big city  
4421 in Romania that has a good university it was far and it didn't really tempt  
4422 me much having done a summer course there. I didn't feel I liked the city  
4423 (.) so that wasn't an option. So I had these two options in Romania out  
4424 which one was convenience and the other one was a good option (.) the  
4425 capital (.) right? But I just felt that I wanted more than that and I thought I  
4426 would have been definitely happy if I went to university in Romania (.) in  
4427 the capital but I didn't want to miss on the whole experience of living in  
4428 another country and mastering a foreign language and for me it was like I  
4429 wouldn't have chosen to study in Romania. Because it was my own country  
4430 and because of the experience that you get studying abroad (.) I would of  
4431 never chosen to study there (.) no matter what course I would have got in or  
4432 what sort of university. Because you are probably aware of it but  
4433 Romanian's get heavy subsidies from the Government to study. If you have  
4434 good marks you can easily go through university without paying anything.  
4435 So I would have never liked to have chosen that for (.) because of the  
4436 experience. Okay (.) sorry back to your question. I chose to come to  
4437 England because I had two options basically (.) I had Spain and the UK.

4438 Henry: Because you spoke Spanish and English?

4439 Marina: Yes (.) I mean because I could master both of them. At that point back in  
4440 time I wasn't like very fluent. Possibly English was my better language but  
4441 I wasn't just nearly as good at it as I am now because I wasn't a strong  
4442 language student in High School. I need to admit that. And I ended up  
4443 choosing England because of two main reasons. Because the education  
4444 system in Spain tends to be quite (.) it is less. I would say it is less easy for  
4445 foreign students to accommodate there. It is quite intense workload. It is a  
4446 bit similar to the Romanian one as well so I thought if I was going for other  
4447 (.) I am going abroad for a reason I could as well choose something that  
4448 would actually make it worth it. I thought UK education system would be a  
4449 completely different experience as well and then I went to Essex and not to  
4450 other universities that I applied to (.) where I was accepted because there  
4451 was this scholarship that I got from them. So I think the financial aspect of  
4452 it was important because I probably would have been accepted to better  
4453 universities.

4454 Henry: But there was that practical element for you then?

4455 Marina: Yes.

4456 Henry: Yes. What about accommodation then was that something else that dictated  
4457 what sort of place you were thinking of going to? Where you would end up  
4458 living?

4459 Marina: What exactly do you mean (.) in terms of?

4460 Henry: Did you live in Halls when you were at uni?

4461 Marina: Yes.

4462 Henry: Yes (.) so was all that stuff sorted alongside your scholarship then?

4463 Marina: Yes (.) I think the accommodation aspect of it (.) it is involved in the  
4464 financial (.) As I said (.) I mentioned the financial aspect of it. Because as I  
4465 said I could have gone to university in Romania for free and I would have  
4466 had a good (.) like quite good lifestyle but coming to the UK was a bit of a  
4467 (.) not like a burden for my family to support me here at the beginning (.)  
4468 mostly. And now I am doing my Masters (.) poor them (.) I don't know.  
4469 And yes it was a bit of a burden so I had to consider trying to just be  
4470 appreciated for the support they gave me. So I said (.) "I could as well go  
4471 now to the that I was accepted to but that would help my family.

4472 Henry: Yes (.) so you were going in the general direction of what you wanted but  
4473 you were happy to compromise a little bit?

4474 Marina: Right (.) yes that is it.

4475 Henry: That is fair enough. I suppose I only asked that because another interviewee  
4476 has said to me that accommodation in Romania would have cost (.) I think  
4477 it was (.) I can't remember what he was saying now (.) I think something  
4478 like £20 a month compared to £100 a week or something that he was  
4479 charged here. There is a massive gap and those things obviously influence.

4480 Marina: Well yes I don't know if this is relevant but to be honest for me it was like  
4481 (.) you know I told you I had the convenience option (.) In Romania I had  
4482 the convenience option and then I had the good option which was the  
4483 capital. The convenience option pretty much meant that I would have gone  
4484 to Iași ITCH which is quite close to my hometown. It is a big city where  
4485 you get a good university.

4486 Henry: Is that the big cultural city?

4487 Marina: Yes (.) no (.) wait hold on I think that might be Cluj.

4488 Henry: Is it? I am trying to think (.) is it Iași?

4489 Marina: Iași. It is a cultural city (.) you get universities there.

4490 Henry: Yes (.) it is known for its sort of universities isn't it?

4491 Marina: Yes. It is one of them (.) there are three of them like three big cities. And I  
4492 had a family friend who had an apartment there and he moved to the capital  
4493 and he was more than happy to give his apartment to me to live there while  
4494 I was at uni. So I had accommodation sorted for all three years that I was  
4495 studying.

4496 Henry: So it really was quite a (.) in this practical everything would have just  
4497 unfolded naturally if you had stayed whereas if you were choosing to go  
4498 somewhere else everything would be up in the air wouldn't it for you?

4499

4500 Marina: Yes (.) I think so. But as I said (.) that is why I am saying this just to  
4501 emphasise how much I didn't see it as an option. I said (.) "If I can go  
4502 abroad (.) I will go abroad no matter what. I'd rather go like even if it's not  
4503 as good a university even. I'd rather go abroad because of the experience."

4504 Henry: And what sort of things about the experience attracted you then?

4505 Marina: Well I have already mentioned language like mastering a foreign language.  
4506 And then (.) it is hard again to talk about. But I think it is the fact that I had  
4507 to learn to take care of myself. There wasn't anybody to call when I thought  
4508 (.) "I'm hungry and I'm lazy to cook." There wasn't anybody. And I had to  
4509 make new friends. I had to learn how to make foreign friends because I  
4510 would have to learn all these things. I guess the practical aspects of it (.) I  
4511 just (.) Even though in the UK it is quite common that students get a part-  
4512 time job and stuff like that and I felt that is a positive thing and I felt that I  
4513 want to be able to get involved in different activities while in Romania I  
4514 could have done that. I already had a part-time job when I was in School in  
4515 Romania which was very unusual for students of my age. But I felt that I  
4516 could become more competitive if I am doing that here (.) if that makes  
4517 sense?

4518 Henry: Yes (.) definitely (.) yes. So when you had your sights set on Essex and you  
4519 were going to come to the UK that you were going to study here. What sort  
4520 of things were you expecting before you came? Was there anything that  
4521 knew about the UK that you were preparing yourself for or things that you

4522 might think would be challenging or? Can you remember anything like  
 4523 that?

4524 Marina: What sort of things I expected? Yes (.) bad weather.

4525 Henry: Better weather?

4526 Marina: Bad weather.

4527 Henry: Oh bad weather (.) yes.

4528 Marina: Well (.) yes (.) I expected that that was going to be a problem. It wasn't as  
 4529 much when I lived back in the South (.) I think. I think it was better than I  
 4530 expected it. Other than that (.) yes I have got two points here I think that are  
 4531 very important. One thing was that that is something I expected and it  
 4532 didn't happen (.) ever. So pretty much I expected I was going to come here.  
 4533 I think it is important somehow (.) I had a boyfriend back in my country at  
 4534 that time so I was in this mindset when I came here that (.) "Oh I'm just  
 4535 going there because I want to learn and I'm coming back." And I went and I  
 4536 was expecting that I would be studying so hard (.) I would have to work so  
 4537 hard to actually be able to make it to a level and be as good as other British  
 4538 students for example might be. Because of their language advantage  
 4539 obviously and other advantages of course. And I would just have to work so  
 4540 hard (.) I might do well or I might do just average (.) fair enough but all I  
 4541 would be doing (.) I mean not all I would be doing but I was expecting that  
 4542 I would be working so hard for it. While when I actually came to university  
 4543 and I went to university I realised that I worked very hard but it was a  
 4544 different sort of work I had to do. I had to work on myself to learn how to  
 4545 adapt to a new environment and learn about different educational standards  
 4546 (.) about different sort of things that are required from a student here. That  
 4547 was difficult to grasp. That was difficult to (.) So basically learning for  
 4548 different things. It wasn't anymore aiming for good marks (.) it wasn't  
 4549 anymore about being the best student (.) being the one that the teacher  
 4550 recognised and praised in a class or something like that. It wasn't about that  
 4551 sort of thing anymore it was more about things like getting involved (.)  
 4552 being a good team player and things like that. So I had to learn a quite  
 4553 different system of values (.) educational values I mean by this. Well that  
 4554 was something I expected that didn't happen. Something (.) what sort of  
 4555 things I have? I expected (.) I remember now. I have mentioned already (.) I  
 4556 came here because I wanted to just study (.) learn (.) and come back  
 4557 eventually.

4558 Henry: So it was going to be a clear circle thing (.) you were going to go (.) do it  
 4559 (.) come back (.) it was going to be?

4560 Marina: Yes (.) I mean I wasn't going to stay in the UK (.) I wasn't planning (.) I  
 4561 am still not planning to stay in the UK for a long but you never know (.)  
 4562 now I know that. I didn't back then. So I expected that as a Romanian  
 4563 student in the UK because of the quite recent integration of Romania in the  
 4564 EU (.) I expected to be discriminated against. I thought that. And I also  
 4565 expected that (.) well there was something else on the media I wanted to  
 4566 say.



4567 Henry: Take your time.

4568 Marina: There was something that just came to my mind when you first asked it (.)  
 4569 it was about (.) Let's just carry on maybe and I will remember about it and  
 4570 come back to it (.) I promise. What was it?

4571 Henry: So maybe if I repeat the question in a different way. When you knew that  
 4572 you were going to come to the UK what were you preparing yourself for?  
 4573 What sort of an environment were you thinking you were going into? Was  
 4574 there any sort of cultural things that you thought (.) "I'd better be aware of  
 4575 that?" Or was there anything that surprised you when you came? "Oh I  
 4576 didn't realise it was that way or"=

4577 Marina: =Right (.) I think this is a good question. I was trying to (.) yes (.) learn  
 4578 about day to day sort of culture (.) customs so I wouldn't be awkward in an  
 4579 interaction or a (.) I tried to prepare myself for that but before coming to  
 4580 study here I had already been to the UK a few times just travelling.

4581 Henry: Oh okay (.) yes so you were familiar with sort of the map? You knew  
 4582 vaguely where things were and that sort of thing then?

4583 Marina: Yes (.) yes. I think that was a bit easier for me personally because having  
 4584 been to the UK before I was like (.) I already know I need to say (.) "Thank  
 4585 you and thanks. And sorry (.) " Every five times when I am not hearing a  
 4586 word (.) there you go. Things like that (.) so things like that I was already  
 4587 used to so I didn't worry myself too much about it before coming here. As I  
 4588 said I think what I worried about was language (.) a barrier for my studies  
 4589 and getting (.) I probably was a bit concerned about (.) "Am I going to be  
 4590 able to make friends? Am I going to get?" But at the same time I was a bit  
 4591 (.) "Oh I'm just going to go back to Romania to my boyfriend every time  
 4592 that I have the opportunity to and (.) " I mean I was concerned (.) "Am I  
 4593 going to be able to make friends?" But at the same time I was a bit like (.)  
 4594 "And if I don't I'll just carry on with my studies and then (.) " If you see  
 4595 what I mean?

4596 Henry: So you were saying earlier (.) I think this was the first point you said (.) I  
 4597 know there is a second point that you are waiting to remember but we will  
 4598 keep that in mind. The first point you said was that due to the recent  
 4599 integration of Romania you were anticipating discrimination?

4600 Marina: Yes.

4601 Henry: What sort of things relate to that?

4602 Marina: And not only the recent integration but I guess I expected discrimination (.)  
 4603 well I feared it I am not sure if I expected it. I think that is a bit too much to  
 4604 say but I feared I might have been. Because we in Romania (.) when I say  
 4605 we (.) I don't always agree with that. I don't always do those things to be  
 4606 honest but when I say we it is because I can see it is quite a generalised  
 4607 attitude. And I think you are trying to get to that (.) the attitudes of  
 4608 Romanian students or (.) I mean you are trying to get to Romanian or never  
 4609 mind. Never mind.

4610 Henry: Oh God. I am interested in your view (.) however you want to articulate  
4611 that. However you want to.

4612 Marina: Well anyway (.) I think that Romanians tend to have this sort of victimised  
4613 view that everyone outside the borders just blame Romanians for being that  
4614 way or the other way and that they aren't (.) they personally aren't like that.  
4615 But they just kept like re-embedding those sorts of views (.) it is UKIP  
4616 maybe. I don't think foreigners see Romanians that way. I think most  
4617 foreigners have a quite accurate view of Romanian people but Romanians  
4618 themselves just like to keep like making it as if everyone blames  
4619 Romanians for having gypsies for example. So having been Romanian and  
4620 having lived there for 18 years I had those sorts of views embedded and as  
4621 much as I don't like to accept that (.) I am sometimes like that. In terms of  
4622 that. I think that (.) yes (.) I might sometimes if someone just acts really  
4623 rudely towards me I sometimes might think (.) "Oh it's because he thinks  
4624 I'm Romanian and I'm not worth it." But (.) yes it is not like that  
4625 necessarily. And I think (.) right (.) I think I expected that I might have sort  
4626 of moments when someone would treat me not rightly I would think. But  
4627 that is because I guess in Romanian media you get a lot of these cases  
4628 showcased in the media where Romanians just go abroad because they  
4629 either get unfairly punished for something that they didn't do or they just  
4630 did something horrible earlier. And you get a lot of this news about a  
4631 Romanian man in London or a Romanian man in (.) I don't know wherever.  
4632 So I think that is part of it.

4633 Henry: So when you were saying for 18 years (.) you look back now and you feel  
4634 like you had those attitudes (.) they were part of you. That is what you had  
4635 grown up in. Do you feel like you became aware of that when you moved  
4636 here? That you sort of stepped out of that (.) you realised (.) "Oh I'm seeing  
4637 it in that way." Because it sounds like you are looking back on it in a  
4638 different way now?

4639 Marina: I definitely think having lived abroad for so long helped (.) like changed us  
4640 (.) yes.

4641 Henry: It changes how you see Romanians as a category or whatever but then how  
4642 you were back then as well. It seems like you are in different places now  
4643 when you think about it?

4644 Marina: Yes (.) I am definitely in different places. And also I think that because I  
4645 lived in Japan as well in the meantime (.) alright so it is not only the UK (.)  
4646 it is the fact that I have travelled to several other countries. I was in Spain  
4647 for a while as well. So I travelled to different countries (.) I interacted with  
4648 different people. I have seen how the Romanians are seen from different  
4649 countries (.) people's perspectives. Japanese people might have given a  
4650 different reaction (.) "Oh you're a Romanian." Than a British person will  
4651 have. That British people generally have. So I went to different countries (.)  
4652 I have seen Romanians are see differently and it is not a case that  
4653 Romanians are seen the way I used to see them. I used to think that  
4654 Romanians are seen like other people when I was in Romania and lived  
4655 there. So yes I think that definitely made an impact. But saying that  
4656 sometimes those deeply embedded beliefs that I had are still with me and I

4657 am over them but there is just something there unconsciously (.)  
 4658 unconscious forces that are there. I don't agree with them (.) I don't believe  
 4659 them but they might influence my actions.

4660 Henry: Almost like auto pilot? If you are not aware of it you could just end up  
 4661 doing things or reacting in certain ways and then (.) "What a minute (.)  
 4662 what am I doing?" Is it that sort of thing?

4663 Marina: Yes. This is not to say that if a shopkeeper treats me rudely it is because she  
 4664 think I am Romanian (.) no.

4665 Henry: Lots of thinking on.

4666 Marina: Yes

4667 Henry: Yes (.) I know what you mean.

4668 Marina: It is not to say that (.) in that sort of case. It is not everything that if  
 4669 someone does something towards me that I find rude or anything like that it  
 4670 is not because I am automatically accusing her for discriminating me (.) no.  
 4671 But I kind of like (.) well sort of (.) There are times when (.) I don't know  
 4672 maybe and this is a personal one (.) I don't know if I should get to this now.  
 4673 Maybe it is one of your later questions.

4674 Henry: Of course (.) yes.

4675 Marina: Oh (.) hold on. Let's just move forward (.) keep moving and then I will  
 4676 come back to it at a better point maybe.

4677 Henry: Yes (.) sure. Can you think of any particular examples (.) any particular  
 4678 experiences you had when you first arrived? When you were saying about  
 4679 you were conscious about you wanted to master the language (.) I think in  
 4680 your own words that is what you were aiming to do and to learn how to live  
 4681 on your own and all those sorts of things. Can you think of any examples  
 4682 when you first arrived and you were setting in here? I mean challenging  
 4683 experiences you might have had? Or any particular moments (.) anything  
 4684 awkward with people or? Can you remember anything like that when you  
 4685 first came? Some people have stories (.) don't they? When they first go to  
 4686 somewhere (.) tangible experiences (.) you may not have.

4687 Marina: Yes (.) no I am sure I do (.) it is just that it has been a while now for me.

4688 Henry: Yes (.) no I understand that because of course you have sort of moved  
 4689 around a fair bit since then haven't you so it is trying to locate that  
 4690 particular time isn't it?

4691 Marina: Yes. Because I can totally think about some of when I came to Sheffield but  
 4692 thinking back to some (.)

4693 Henry: Well Sheffield (.) tell me about Sheffield? Because that is still a movement  
 4694 isn't it? You have moved from the South to the North haven't you? Like  
 4695 you said earlier it is colder so it is a bit different.

4696 Marina: Yes (.) I mean I don't know if this is a good example but it was just a story  
 4697 (.) I came to Sheffield and because I had left my charger back in Essex I

4698 didn't have one. So I had to get to uni without having a GPS (.) right? And  
 4699 that is when I asked somebody for directions and he was from Sheffield  
 4700 obviously so he had that accent and I was just literally not able to help my  
 4701 laugh and pay attention to his like his instructions.

4702 Henry: So he was saying things. Did any of it sound familiar or was it all just  
 4703 totally?

4704 Marina: No (.) it was just the accent. I could understand what he said totally but it  
 4705 was just the accent and I just couldn't bring myself to pay attention to the  
 4706 instructions because of it.

4707 Henry: You were focussed on his accent (.) oh dear.

4708 Marina: But that is just (.) it is not necessary (.) that one is a irrelevant thing. Oh let  
 4709 me think back about things that might have been difficult. I can think about  
 4710 plenty about Japan and others but I am sure there are quite a few because  
 4711 Romanian students complain all the time.

4712 Henry: What about when you moved to Japan? An experience there maybe?  
 4713 Because I suppose you speak some pretty good Japanese then to live there  
 4714 for a time? You must have (.)

4715 Marina: I speak very basic Japanese I think.

4716 Henry: Okay.

4717 Marina: Yes (.) just conversation Japanese. But when I moved there I didn't know  
 4718 any Japanese.

4719 Henry: Right so you learned more or less from scratch when you moved there then?

4720 Marina: Right (.) yes.

4721 Henry: So that must have been quite challenging then to say the least?

4722 Marina: Yes. Oh right (.) well hold on I have remembered something. I think one  
 4723 thing exactly my first day when I moved to the UK and I had an awful day  
 4724 when you are moving abroad. You have all your luggage with you and I  
 4725 was tired and my bus ticket (.) I had a problem with my bus ticket. So I got  
 4726 to my rooms in uni and I had this huge suitcase with me and there was a girl  
 4727 in my kitchen and she wasn't even like having dinner or something. She  
 4728 was just chilling (.) really chilling. And I know I was just sort of tired and I  
 4729 couldn't get figure out how the door worked because there was a card.

4730 Henry: What (.) like those scanned things then?

4731 Marina: Yes. So I couldn't figure it out. Basically there was like this fire door before  
 4732 and there was one of these doors (.) right. So I didn't find the room  
 4733 basically (.) you know it sounds funny and it might sound it is because I got  
 4734 lost very easily. But no actually the way the flats were it was just sort of  
 4735 confusing. You had to go right (.) to the right again to get to the room.

4736 Henry: And there were obviously loads and loads of different flats and different  
4737 bedrooms and some of them are not even open (.) they are fire exits. It is  
4738 confusing in Halls isn't it?

4739 Marina: Right (.) exactly. So I couldn't find the room so I asked the girl (.) "I have a  
4740 card." Because I (.) there was this fire door (.) that was the third. So there  
4741 was a three on it and I had a card for my room. I thought that was my room  
4742 because my room was number three and I had a card but that had a key.  
4743 You needed a key to open the door. So I asked the girl who was in the  
4744 kitchen at that time (.) "I've got a card and it's supposed to (.) Can you  
4745 help me?" And she was just like (.) "Oh (.) yes I think that's not the door (.)  
4746 just keep looking." And I was (.) obviously I had my luggage and stuff so I  
4747 expected because we were going to be flatmates for a whole year (.) I mean  
4748 I didn't want her to help me with my luggage or anything like that (.) even  
4749 though that would have been nice given that she had already arrived and  
4750 stuff. But at least be a bit more hospitable. She just asked me name and I  
4751 think that is one of the things that because we were talking about  
4752 experiences (.) awkward or (.) I didn't feel offended (.) that wasn't a big  
4753 deal but I felt awkward because I felt that that is not how things are  
4754 supposed to be. That is a cultural thing probably because I was in Romania  
4755 and I had a lot of foreign students friends and I was always trying to make it  
4756 easier for them as a foreign student. So I think that is part of the culture that  
4757 was awkward for me. But that is just one thing that I remember.

4758 Henry: You found your room in the end I guess?

4759 Marina: Oh right (.) yes obviously.

4760 Henry: Happy ending (.) eventually.

4761 Marina: Yes.

4762 Henry: Did someone else help you in the end or did you just managed to find the  
4763 right room?

4764 Marina: No I managed to find it but due to her instructions. It is just that the way she  
4765 responded to me wasn't very natural to me.

4766 Henry: No (.) I suppose it almost seems quite dismissive in a way.

4767 Marina: Yes. I would think that because we were going to be flatmates. She was a  
4768 nice girl (.) it was a bit surprising. So that is what I remember now. Right (.)  
4769 other things? I can't really think (.) I think I might remember other ones as  
4770 we talk and I will come back to it if you don't mind.

4771 Henry: Yes. How have you found because obviously it is such a broad period now  
4772 because you have been here five years (.) I totally appreciate that it is  
4773 probably quite a vague question in itself. But how have you found settling  
4774 in (.) living in the UK? The time that you have been here obviously that you  
4775 weren't having a year abroad in Japan. How have you found life here? Have  
4776 you found that you have settled in nicely? Learning the language? Learning  
4777 the ways?

4778 Marina: Yes (.) given that I spent quite a long time here and I got involved in  
4779 different activities. Not only have I gone to school here I have also had a  
4780 gap year when I worked in the UK. So I think that is important (.) a very  
4781 important part of it that makes me be able to say (.) “Yes (.) I feel I’ve  
4782 settled in well now.” Because I have been in different positions in society  
4783 (.) in organisations. I have had different jobs as well so the fact that I was  
4784 able to change them and to get them I think that makes me feel that I am  
4785 integrated well into society and not only jobs but also roles (.) volunteering  
4786 or other social roles. I think UK does a really good job for support. As a  
4787 student I have benefitted from like amazing support (.) I don’t know what  
4788 other countries have that sort of system in place (.) probably they do. I  
4789 mean if I think about the States (.) even Japan did a good job on that but I  
4790 tend to think that that is because it is just the university that I went to. So I  
4791 tend to think that if you went to Japan as a student you wouldn’t get the  
4792 support that I got in Japan. But UK does a great job it is not only my  
4793 university (.) it is just the UK does a good job with integrating international  
4794 students. That is because (.) in my opinion (.) in my view it is because the  
4795 UK education system is tending to become privatised. So it is becoming  
4796 more of a business and because of that they want to attract international  
4797 students and there you go (.) it is needed.

4798 Henry: Yes (.) for people to come you have to support them.

4799 Marina: Yes but I think because they are doing such a good job it was just easy for  
4800 me to integrate. It was probably going to be one of the easiest countries to  
4801 integrate in to be honest.

4802 Henry: In relation to the society more broadly (.) did that make the integration side  
4803 easier? Because the uni helped settle you that everything else became  
4804 easier? Because it sounds like it was almost a key to unlocking the door for  
4805 you because the support was there you were able to get on and sort  
4806 everything else out.

4807 Marina: Oh right (.) that is interesting because it just makes me realise that I didn’t  
4808 think about the integrating the society part.

4809 Henry: No (.) obviously uni life is part of it but you were saying about lots of  
4810 different roles and volunteering. So you obviously are engaging with  
4811 society in different ways aren’t you?

4812 Marina: Yes (.) I mean yes you are right. I think uni was a really good link to that  
4813 because as the story goes I went to Essex University which was a campus  
4814 based university so you have the town there (.) Colchester town and then 20  
4815 minutes by bus it is down wi[th the]

4816 Henry: [Yes (.) s]elf-contained shops and everything on  
4817 (.) Yes.

4818 Marina: Right. So for the first couple of years maybe one or two years (.) for me it  
4819 was mainly just integrating in a campus. It wasn’t much. Okay (.) I would  
4820 just go on the weekend to town but it wasn’t much about interacting with  
4821 locals or (.) Actually it wasn’t really much. I barely knew anyone else apart  
4822 from uni people.

4823 Henry: I should even the shops was run by students because they all would have  
 4824 worked part-time and I imagine it was just the same community wasn't it I  
 4825 suppose?

4826 Marina: Yes. So I remember about the end of my second year I moved out for a  
 4827 summer holiday (.) my second summer holiday at uni I spent it in the UK  
 4828 more or less (.) I mean mostly. And I remember because I could have got an  
 4829 accommodation in campus but I just moved with some friends (.) I  
 4830 remember. And I moved out basically in a neighbourhood. It was still close  
 4831 to Campus (.) so still not in the town centre or anything like that but it was  
 4832 out there in the world (.) it wasn't in Campus anymore. So (.) yes I  
 4833 remember that was a bit of a strange feeling. I wasn't used to it and also I  
 4834 then remember (.) I can point out when I graduated and that is another  
 4835 crucial point for me. Because I was going to return to Romania to do my  
 4836 Masters but last minute I didn't. And I was here still (.) graduated. I didn't  
 4837 have my plans because plans just sort of were changed. I was going to go  
 4838 back and all of a sudden I changed my plans and I was here (.) no plan (.)  
 4839 like really much. I had to find a job here because I was here. And that was  
 4840 when (.) because I then worked here I got an internship and had a gap year  
 4841 working in the UK. That made me feel (.) "Okay (.) now I am integrated (.)  
 4842 I am more or less just as a British person." Because I sort of started to see  
 4843 myself more like a national (.) not a national of this country because I don't  
 4844 identify myself in terms of nationality but I started to see myself more equal  
 4845 I guess. Well not equal because it is not a quality thing but more like the  
 4846 same as anyone else who lives here (.) if you see what I mean. So that  
 4847 definitely helped integration.

4848 Henry: It is really interesting. It sounds like as you are telling me that story as the  
 4849 next stage of your life occurs you are looking at everything else previously  
 4850 a little bit more differently. So when you are living on the campus (.) the  
 4851 self-contained campus you are moving here and you had those experiences  
 4852 there. And then when you moved out of that Campus you were getting a  
 4853 little bit more involved with different things (.) changed again. And then  
 4854 you were saying you finished and you graduated and then you moved again  
 4855 and had to get a job (.) had to find somewhere. So it is changing (.) it is  
 4856 evolving isn't it?

4857 Marina: Yes.

4858 Henry: Yes (.) it is very interesting. You are looking at things slightly differently  
 4859 aren't you? Do you feel like you were aware as your uni life I suppose and  
 4860 as your job (.) you got that job do you feel like you knew those changes  
 4861 were occurring or did you just find yourself getting on with it and doing it.  
 4862 Because obviously this moment of time we are talking about it aren't we  
 4863 and I am asking you directly but can you remember looking back that you  
 4864 were making those conscious decisions? "Well I'll do this because that will  
 4865 help me achieve that?" Or was it more just sort of (.) "Oh that sounds good  
 4866 I'll go with that?" Was it more on the spot? Because of course now you  
 4867 have got all these (.) You know where you want to be don't you? You have  
 4868 got plans haven't you?

4869 Marina: Well (.) yes I mean it is hard to say now. Possibly (.) I think I wasn't as  
 4870 aware of what is happening to me because of the choices that I made at that  
 4871 time. So (.) no (.) because I remember it was about the time when I said I  
 4872 moved out of Campus.

4873 Henry: So you moving in to that little town between the Campus and the city?

4874 Marina: Well it was in town (.) it was in Colchester town but it was just quite close  
 4875 to campus. So it wasn't town centre (.) it was just in town (.) the first time I  
 4876 lived outside of Campus basically. And about the same time I started  
 4877 volunteering for an organisation in town and that is when (.) it was probably  
 4878 some of the few interactions that I had with people that weren't involved in  
 4879 the uni other than shop assistants and stuff like that (.) and the doctors. I  
 4880 remember at that point when I started volunteering there every week I was  
 4881 realising (.) "This is helping me integrate." I was aware of it. It was a  
 4882 different sort of interaction. I wasn't a student (.) I wasn't a customer  
 4883 anymore and it didn't feel like I was (.) It felt like I was out there in the  
 4884 world in a way (.) it didn't feel any more like I was home where I am  
 4885 protected and everyone around me is like knowing the situation I am in and  
 4886 is trying to make it easier for me. So it felt like as soon as I started  
 4887 volunteering there I realised (.) And it was volunteering (.) it wasn't a job. I  
 4888 wasn't (.) Well it was quite flexible (.) it wasn't anything like an internship  
 4889 that you are volunteering but you are still employed. No (.) it was quite  
 4890 relaxed (.) quite chilled but still you were out there in the community.

4891 Henry: What were you doing? What was your role in volunteering?

4892 Marina: Oh it wasn't even a very clearly defined role. I started it because I was  
 4893 doing English lessons to refugees and immigrants. I just got involved  
 4894 because of a friend really who was coordinating it and he needed help. So I  
 4895 said (.) "Okay (.) I can help. It's summer holiday (.) I haven't got any  
 4896 classes (.) I can do that." I ended up doing quite a few like office based  
 4897 tasks as well.

4898 Henry: Admin type things?

4899 Marina: Yes (.) wherever they needed it really. But it was out there in the  
 4900 community (.) people that didn't have a clue about what was going on at uni  
 4901 and it wasn't all that.

4902 Henry: And very vulnerable people as well.

4903 Marina: Yes but I didn't have to work directly with them much.

4904 Henry: Okay. You have hit the nail on the head there I suppose with the question of  
 4905 what point did it feel tangible that you were integrating? That was when  
 4906 you were dealing with people external to the uni and it was not for a  
 4907 purpose other than the purpose that you are there for rather than as a  
 4908 customer (.) you are entitled to this help. You are entitled to this (.) you are  
 4909 being taught. That is interesting. If I can just I suppose change direction a  
 4910 tiny bit (.) ask a broader question. So obviously you have moved around a  
 4911 little bit (.) well a little bit (.) a lot. You have lived in quite a few different  
 4912 places within the UK as well as obviously beyond as you have talked about.



4913 If I was to ask you where home is for you? Is that something that you would  
4914 feel quite torn on answering or is it something that feels quite clear to you?

4915 Marina: No (.) yes I think it is not necessarily clear because I tend to say to everyone  
4916 that asks me this is wherever I am really. I am that sort of person who feels  
4917 quite happy in just being (.) two things really. Home is where I live (.) if I  
4918 go to my home and I just crash on my bed (.) wherever my sleeping bed is  
4919 (.) that is where home is for me now.

4920 Henry: Oh (.) a bit like a turtle then with the shell on your back. Wherever you go  
4921 that is?

4922 Marina: Well not really because (.) yes I mean now that I am in Sheffield (.) I  
4923 moved to Sheffield. Sheffield is my home really but (.) Hold on (.) I am  
4924 forgetting my second point. Oh I forgot it whispering The second one I was  
4925 going to say (.) there are two things right. No I mean for me home is where  
4926 I am at. It is definitely that I don't see Romania like my hometown as home  
4927 anymore (.) not anymore no. I a[m more]

4928 Henry: [And th]at is in spite of perhaps your  
4929 grandparents (.) your family being there?

4930 Marina: Yes (.) that is the thing. Despite the fact that they are there and I love my  
4931 family and I have a good time when I go there (.) it is just that (.) Because I  
4932 think that the way I integrate (.) I don't know if that is the case but because  
4933 I happened to lead my adult life in the UK. So I went out of school and as  
4934 soon as I started being (.) because at that age (.) 18 you are starting to be on  
4935 your own pretty much. So all of the things that I had to do for myself (.)  
4936 starting to build up my own life (.) I did them in the UK. So I think that if I  
4937 would have come here when I was at 21 and if I already had a job like a  
4938 proper job in another country (.) I think that would have made a big  
4939 difference. But because for me it was like all the things that I started to (.)  
4940 you know get a job (.) create your social circle (.) all those things (.) they  
4941 were in the UK. I didn't have to do them here (.) in any other country. So I  
4942 think that made a lot of difference to the process and the way I feel towards  
4943 myself and how I see myself.

4944 Henry: Because of when you did it and what the circumstances were?

4945 Marina: Yes and where I see home is (.) right? Because up until 18 you were just  
4946 being given (.) there is your family (.) that is your home (.) that is your  
4947 hometown (.) that is the school that you go to. Once you are legally not old  
4948 and once you go to uni (.) it is in your hands now so what your life is like  
4949 (.) that is how I see things. What your life is like (.) it is what you created.  
4950 And I think what I have now in my life (.) it is all what I created. So I think  
4951 that it is pretty important for me. So I see it like quite a thing because it was  
4952 my choice to be and to create me around this. And so that is why I think it  
4953 down puts the fact that for me home (.) it was in Romania back then. That is  
4954 why I can't say (.) I am not saying (.) "UK is home for me now." Nor is  
4955 Japan or (.) well Japan is the place where I feel I belong. When I lived in  
4956 Japan I was (.) I had never been to Japan before but the very first week I  
4957 arrived there and the people I interacted with I felt that I belonged here. I

4958 felt that the values of the people I am interacting with every single day are a  
4959 lot closer to my values. And I felt that (.)

4960 Henry: It felt right?

4961 Marina: Yes (.) exactly it felt right to be there. I felt that that is where is the place  
4962 that I am supposed to be most of the time and I felt I didn't want to leave it.  
4963 I felt I could live all my life there.

4964 Henry: It must have been hard leaving it then?

4965 Marina: Oh it was awful to leave (.) yes I was almost crying.

4966 Henry: No (.) I can understand that because if something clicks unclicking it is not  
4967 a nice experience.

4968 Marina: Right (.) yes that is true. That is very true.

4969 Henry: Did you make any? Well I suppose you would have made quite a few  
4970 friends when you were out there then?

4971 Marina: I did.

4972 Henry: Do you stay in touch with them?

4973 Marina: Yes (.) it is difficult because we are all busy people (.) I am doing my=  
4974 Henry: =Life gets in the way doesn't it?

4975 Marina: It does and they graduated as well (.) they moved around. But I am in touch  
4976 with most of my friends there and as I said (.) nor is Japan home even  
4977 though that is the place I feel I am like accomplished. If I am there I feel I  
4978 am most accomplished (.) I most likely to be accomplished. But nor is  
4979 Japan (.) it is just the place where I am really and now it just happens to be  
4980 Sheffield is home for me.

4981 Henry: It is really interesting because I think what you are getting at is (.) from how  
4982 I understand it it is more profound than a place because it is in you. It is  
4983 actually mobile because it is in you (.) in wherever you set up shop and  
4984 establish everything that is what it means to you. Because that involves you  
4985 making relationships with people and getting out there and doing stuff. It is  
4986 not just a place.

4987 Marina: No (.) it is not. Home is not a place for me.

4988 Henry: That is really interesting (.) it is really (.)

4989 Marina: For me that is where home is (.) that place where I can crash on a couch  
4990 when I get home and I am tired. Or the place where I am having my  
4991 morning coffee and moaning about my life and things like that.

4992 Henry: Yes. Is there anything (.) you know previously we were talking about (.)  
4993 what was it? Experiences (.) I am trying to think now (.) You had two  
4994 points didn't you and you couldn't remember the second thing that you  
4995 wanted to say?

4996 Marina: I might have touched on it.

4997 Henry: Do you feel satisfied with (.) Because I am conscious that we will move on  
4998 to a bit now that is a bit less (.) It is more generic (.) it is not just about you  
4999 so I wouldn't want to get to a point where you would feel like (.) "Oh I  
5000 can't remember now." I can't even remember what question it was related  
5001 to now. (5) I can't think.

5002 Marina: It was (.) oh maybe if I can=

5003 Henry: =We have talked about a lot haven't we?

5004 Marina: Yes. Was it about integrating (.) I had two points.

5005 Henry: And why it was important I think. Because you said two important points  
5006 you said the first point. Oh yes you were talking about your expectations  
5007 when you were coming here. Because you were saying that you feared  
5008 perhaps discrimination. What was the second point (.) can you remember?

5009 Marina: I think I might have touched on it on a sort of different level to be honest  
5010 about that what I said. Yes (.) as I said because I don't want that to sound  
5011 wrong the being discriminated I guess but I was expecting to be an outsider  
5012 I guess (.) putting it like that. I was expecting to be an outsider. I didn't  
5013 expect. Oh look an example that I can (.) I remember my first year (.) I am  
5014 definitely not thinking like that now but I remember my first year there was  
5015 the course representative role that was offered (.) you know a course rep is  
5016 basically in the course that is responsible for the other students.

5017 Henry: Yes (.) that is what I thought you meant when you said Ambassador earlier  
5018 (.) so yes.

5019 Marina: So first year it was advertised by the course coordinator and I wanted to go  
5020 for it but I felt it was not sort of right for me in a way. I should say most  
5021 students in my course in undergraduate (.) they were British. Like not a vast  
5022 majority (.) not like 99% of the students but a good majority so that most  
5023 people were British. And I was willing to go for it to be course  
5024 representative but I thought (.) "Should I? Is it for me? Am I entitled?" I  
5025 just felt (.) "No (.) there should be a British person to go for it because there  
5026 are more British students on the course." I don't know why I thought that. I  
5027 remember thinking like that. So that is what ties into me feeling as an  
5028 outsider and being perceived an outsider. So what stopped me for going (.) I  
5029 ended up being course rep the next year but I remember that is why I didn't  
5030 volunteer to be a course rep in my first year. And it is because I thought (.)  
5031 "I'm an outsider and people see me as an outsider." So I thought (.) "Maybe  
5032 students in my course won't see me as the most appropriate person to  
5033 represent them." So I just said (.) "Oh maybe it's better for someone else to  
5034 do it because they're just more- Does that make sense?

5035 Henry: If you don't mind me asking then if you could have a conversation with  
5036 yourself then what would you be saying (.) who you are now what would  
5037 you say to yourself then? Is there anything you would do differently? What  
5038 would you tell yourself?

5039 Marina: I would (.) like if I could just be me now and go to the person in that  
5040 moment (.) I would be like (.) “That’s the wrong way to think.” Because  
5041 first of all you were representing the students on your course and you were  
5042 one of them (.) right? So just because you were a national minority it  
5043 doesn’t mean you were not part of it. And I think I was wrong to think that  
5044 way and I also think that I was just as suitable to act as a course  
5045 representative as any other student in my course. The only thing would have  
5046 been the language at that point because it was early in my first year. So that  
5047 would have been my only disadvantage for the role but I think I had  
5048 advantages as well having good sort of people skills and even negotiation  
5049 (.) all moderated by the language barrier at that point. Because it was the  
5050 first few weeks in my first year. Yes (.) I would just say I think I was wrong  
5051 to interpret the situation really and I would just try to convince myself that  
5052 the way I am seeing things is actually not truthful like representative.

5053 Henry: So you would emphasise all those advantages that you could have offered  
5054 that you had (.) you should have allowed yourself to stick to those more so  
5055 then think about why not?

5056 Marina: Yes (.) I mean I guess (.)

5057 Henry: Focus on why you would be good at it rather than why you are not  
5058 appropriate for it?

5059 Marina: Yes. I mean I guess I would say first of all you need to realise that you are  
5060 just entitled as anyone else to be the course representative in that situation  
5061 and just when it comes to quality and when it comes to being able to do a  
5062 good job with it let people decide. Because course reps are elected by votes  
5063 by the students in the course. It doesn’t really matter if you make it but it is  
5064 wrong to think that you are not as suitable as someone else.

5065 Henry: Yes (.) at the end of the day if several people have gone for it they will  
5066 ultimately elect. So even if you weren’t right for it (.) if anyone wasn’t right  
5067 for it then it might be that they are not even elected anyway. So I suppose it  
5068 is (.)

5069 Marina: So I would just say (.) “It’s wrong to think you’re just unsuitable.”

5070 Henry: Was it a good experience (.) when you said you did it in your second year  
5071 (.) was it a good experience for you?

5072 Marina: Yes. By that point I would have already had some jobs so by that point it  
5073 was just another part-time job kind of thing.

5074 Henry: Yes (.) more stuff that you were involved in?

5075 Marina: Yes. Yes (.) I mean I think that that helped me make a few more friends. I  
5076 already had a few British friends in my course but that helped me make  
5077 friends with the British people in my course more because other than (.) It  
5078 is usually like that (.) it is usually that you don’t make friends with the  
5079 people in your course (.) it is your flatmates. It is people like in clubs (.)  
5080 societies and maybe some other friends that you can have from home or  
5081 anything. But I personally found that I don’t easily make friends with  
5082 people on the course so having been the course representative (.)

5083 Henry: Having that purpose I suppose.

5084 Marina: Yes (.) that helped me.

5085 Henry: That clearly defined role and it could (.) yes.

5086 Marina: That helped me make friends with people on my course and people that  
5087 happened to be British at that point. It is not the case now.

5088 Henry: So if you are happy to I was wondering if I could just ask you a few more  
5089 broad questions I suppose because as you would probably imagine (.) as I  
5090 think most participants have (.) I am particularly interested in Romanian  
5091 migration because of the recent accession into the EU and the way in which  
5092 Britain has interpreted this. It is a very explicit thing now (.) how often  
5093 immigration is talked about. Obviously student numbers is a part of that but  
5094 I am just wondering really what your thoughts are (.) when Romanian  
5095 migration is talked about in the news or on television (.) is it something  
5096 that you feel particularly strong about in the way some of the arguments are  
5097 put forth (.) back and forth. Is it that something that you ever pay much  
5098 attention to?

5099 Marina: I have to say that I don't watch TV at all so I wouldn't be up to date (.) I  
5100 wouldn't be (.)

5101 Henry: No (.) no well obviously it has happened for four years or so (.) so it doesn't  
5102 have to be what was on the news last night.

5103 Marina: Yes (.) okay but that is the thing that even if I don't (.) I never watch TV (.)  
5104 I am still exposed to it and saying that I think I am still more likely than  
5105 let's say a French student to click on that link when it shows on maybe  
5106 anywhere. If I am on Facebook and someone posts it I am more likely to  
5107 actually click on it. I usually don't do that (.) honestly speaking because I  
5108 am not interested in politics. That is my reason why. But I am more likely  
5109 than someone who is not a Romanian to click on that news and read them  
5110 and find out about them. Like the way I see the things because I have been  
5111 one of the students that came to the UK in actually one of the very few  
5112 years that Romanian students were allowed to come here. I think I was the  
5113 third generation so basically at my uni (.) when I came to the UK there were  
5114 like 30 Romanian students in total and the year I came there were another  
5115 100 and something that came at the same time. So that was quite a (.) you  
5116 know one (.)

5117 Henry: It was all new wasn't it?

5118 Marina: Yes (.) it was a new thing and without comes along other aspects of it. And  
5119 I have had to (.) you are probably aware of it or not but there was a yellow  
5120 card (.) as a Romanian student you had to obtain to work in the UK.

5121 Henry: Like a student visa? Is it a student visa?

5122 Marina: Yes (.) I mean you can see it as a visa. It wasn't a visa because you didn't  
5123 need it to stay in the UK you just needed it if you wanted to work in the  
5124 UK. So you had to apply for that sort of card (.) even if you were in a  
5125 student to be able to work and you were still restricted for 20 hours a week

5126 by law. At that time if I wanted to work I had to apply for it (.) so I applied  
5127 just to have it. Because you don't need it for volunteering activities I think  
5128 unless (.) It is just the way the law works. I remember I needed it to be (.)  
5129 It was a volunteering position but I would get accommodation subsidised so  
5130 I would still get some benefits out of that. And I needed it for that one I  
5131 think (.) or not. I can't remember. Anyway if I wanted to have a paid job in  
5132 the UK I needed it (.) so I applied for it. Let alone the fact that it took like a  
5133 year for it to be issued.

5134 Henry: A year?

5135 Marina: About a year (.) yes.

5136 Henry: Wow.

5137 Marina: Romanian students don't need it nowadays since like January 2014.

5138 Henry: Yes (.) it has all opened up now hasn't it?

5139 Marina: Right. And also I remember my friends in my first year when we were all  
5140 like new here and applying for it (.) there were quite a few situations when  
5141 they got (.) like things were very confusing (.) you might be aware of it.  
5142 Thing were very confusing and it just felt that they were trying to make  
5143 things like life more difficult for us. I remember (.) I sent all my paperwork  
5144 and I didn't get a reply for obviously a few months and then I got back a  
5145 reply saying that I didn't send a paper that I did send and that I had to send  
5146 it. And then I had to send it within a certain time but it was just the time  
5147 when I had my Christmas holiday (.) or no (.) Easter holiday (.) it was  
5148 Easter holiday. So I would have been back to Romania for a whole month  
5149 (.) I got that mail in the meantime.

5150 Henry: Yes (.) so they see it as (.) well you've not responded in this time type of  
5151 thing?

5152 Marina: Yes but they could have eventually assumed that I am out of the country  
5153 because I am only a student here. But let alone I got a letter and then I got  
5154 the card after (.) before I actually (.) So it was just complicated (.) not see-  
5155 through (.) not clear the procedures. And I think that it just felt like they  
5156 were trying to make our life more difficult. The way I see it is that a lot of  
5157 my friends are complaining about media and how Romanian immigration is  
5158 portrayed in the media (.) personally I see it as a very natural trend that is  
5159 happening. I think that I just happen to be one of the first Romanians that  
5160 immigrated to the UK (.) historically it just happened to be like that. And I  
5161 think it has always been like that with immigration. If there is an  
5162 immigration wave from one country to another (.) that immigration wave is  
5163 going to get pointed at in the media. And it is natural (.) it is always going  
5164 to happen (.) you can't help it so I don't get bothered by it. Even if it is  
5165 really bad news that is ridiculous (.) it is absolutely untruthful just down  
5166 putting Romanians in some sort of way. I don't get bothered by it (.) I don't  
5167 get it upset it is just natural it is going to happen and I just see it like (.) well  
5168 it is going to pass. People are going to settle here and some of them are  
5169 going to go back and British people are going to learn about Romanians  
5170 more and you won't get as many as you get now (.) like good or bad news

5171 about Romanians (.) or news about Romanians (.) what the hell it is just  
5172 Romanians (.) it shouldn't be like that. I think that the media (.) I think it  
5173 was before January 2014 when there was like this huge amount of media  
5174 coming in about Romanians and Bulgarians in relation to immigration.

5175 Henry: It was the countdown to the day.

5176 Marina: Right I remember that. Well (.) yes and there were those things that people  
5177 were saying about UK thinking of leaving the EU and all sorts of funny  
5178 stuff.

5179 Henry: They are still talking about it now. Obviously I follow it you see so it has  
5180 only got more so I think really.

5181 Marina: Oh right. And there was something else as well I remember. What was it?  
5182 There was news about (.) oh I can't (.) It was on British like websites and  
5183 channels and about just (.) "Ah they will kick all Romanians out and stuff."  
5184 Things like that which I thought (.) And a lot of the reports I felt that they  
5185 couldn't have possibly been accurate (.) I am not a statistician or anything  
5186 like that but I felt that they couldn't have possibly been true about crime  
5187 and rates.

5188 Henry: Well you have done psychology (.) you will have a fair idea of stats anyway  
5189 won't you? As placed as anyone to think how could there be 29 million  
5190 people coming when there are not 29 million people living in the country. It  
5191 is that sort of thing isn't it?

5192 Marina: Yes (.) things like that. So I felt because of that sort of news (.) I felt that  
5193 there was this documentary which I didn't watch but I happened to see a  
5194 trailer of it because it was there on Facebook and I clicked on play. And I  
5195 think that said it (.) the way I see things. And I do feel UK media and the  
5196 British like some of the representatives not all of them obviously (.) I am  
5197 sure it is not all of them. Even if I am not up to date with the topic or with  
5198 what is happening in the politics (.) what certain politicians do or say (.) I  
5199 am sure it is not all of them. But I feel that some authorities and media (.)  
5200 some media channels obviously not all of them again have misrepresented  
5201 the UK because the UK is such a powerful and rich country and you can't  
5202 possibly not see how immigration helps the UK and the UK economy. So I  
5203 think while there will be negative aspects to this immigration wave for  
5204 British citizens (.) there is definitely (.) Still let's not put it in absolute  
5205 terms (.) let's not say it is a good thing for the UK but it has its advantages.  
5206 And I think like just portraying it in such a negative way (.) they have just  
5207 down put their own name (.) I think.

5208 Henry: So it is about putting it in a certain perspective then really?

5209 Marina: Right (.) yes.

5210 Henry: So when you said earlier about other people you know get quite annoyed  
5211 about the way Romanians are misrepresented in the media (.) that is the sort  
5212 of view they have. And you say (.) "Well it's a historical thing (.) it happens  
5213 when new people come." Do you feel in that sense then that we should take  
5214 a more relaxed view because we know it will get better in time or do you

5215 think we should challenge that when it happens to try and get people think  
5216 differently in the first instance? Does that make sense?

5217 Marina: Yes (.) it makes sense. It is a good question (.) I was thinking about it.

5218 Henry: Because the thing that is often said (.) well it is often said in this context  
5219 anyway for me to bring in the argument is that it is racist to talk about  
5220 immigration or that it is not racist. I am only talking about numbers but then  
5221 they are only talking about (.) I don't know (.) the number of Roma that  
5222 have come and it is always showing the Roma that are on the streets  
5223 begging. People might get annoyed at that and say (.) "Well it's  
5224 misrepresenting or it's (.) " Or is it just telling the truth? I suppose they are  
5225 the sort of things that can sometimes come to light in the representation.

5226 Marina: Yes (.) I mean to answer your question I think it should be challenged (.) I  
5227 think in any country sort of thing (.) any immigration wave. It should be  
5228 challenged but at the same time I think it is very difficult to do that and it is  
5229 natural that (.) you know not conflicts but sort of clashes may arise. So I  
5230 think that is why I am more like (.) "Ah hands-off the situation." I don't  
5231 want to get involved (.) I don't want to (.) I don't care about it much  
5232 because I think it is a matter of habit and it is a matter of the human nature.  
5233 So I think while we might be able to do things to improve the situation (.)  
5234 you won't be able to change the situation. So at this point in our human  
5235 development we are not actually able to deal with in-group/out group (.)  
5236 sort of the situations that tie-in to immigration. So yes it is positive and it is  
5237 good to try to change which I think is probably the reason why I was happy  
5238 to volunteer to take part in this research. Because it looks into that (.) it  
5239 looks into this sort of (.) It looks into immigration and it looks into about  
5240 why do sort of concerns about immigration waves may arise and it looks  
5241 into out group and in-group and how out groups are perceived.

5242 Henry: And that is ultimately what it is always about. It is always about how we  
5243 see each other isn't it?

5244 Marina: Yes (.) exactly.

5245 Henry: On that language level.

5246 (Silence 1:15:47-1:15:54)

5247 Henry: I am just trying to think (.) I haven't looked at the questions for a while and  
5248 you have answered quite a few of them. So I suppose if I could just ask one  
5249 last question really because you have answered all the other ones and you  
5250 have been very comprehensive. You were saying about migration being (.)  
5251 you know over time you get waves and groups of people that come and it is  
5252 a natural part that there is sort of a friction if you like when people move.  
5253 And you were talking about the yellow card experience and how long it  
5254 took you to get that. Do you think it is something that should be a right for  
5255 people to move around when or however they want to or do you think it is  
5256 something that should be a privilege and should be earned with time? So  
5257 obviously Romania had to wait and you had to get that yellow card. Now  
5258 you can come and go whenever you want to. Do you have any feelings  
5259 about that (.) whether you think it should be a right for everyone to move



5260 around as they want to? Or do you think it should be based on skills (.) like  
5261 some countries do or? I don't know. Do you have any feelings about that?

5262 Marina: That is a very tricky question to be honest. Oh no (.) I have got my answer  
5263 for that but I mean because I am anti-nationalist so I think there should be  
5264 no countries (.) no immigration restrictions. But I cannot not be concerned  
5265 about the political risks of that and social risks of that if all doors are open  
5266 and African countries would be able to immigrate somewhere else. There  
5267 would be huge social risks that would be created and that is a bit idealistic  
5268 to think like that but I think generally we should be moving (.) as a race (.)  
5269 we should be moving in the direction of people having more freedom in  
5270 terms of where they can live and they want to settle down. And I think that  
5271 is positive not only for economics that is just positive for our own  
5272 wellbeing (.) for the human race really.

5273 Henry: That is a really interesting idea really.

5274 Marina: I think that wouldn't pose (.) Because what (.) thinking like that what I am  
5275 concerned about is about cultures. If people could live anywhere then we  
5276 might be losing heritage and our cultural ways but I don't think that is the  
5277 case. I think culture would still be preserved even if there were no political  
5278 borders.

5279 Henry: What about with Europe then? Because I suppose you could say that it has  
5280 been de-nationalised to an extent in the sense that we can all move around  
5281 in Europe a lot more freely. Is that something that you feel quite strongly  
5282 about? Is that a good thing?

5283 Marina: Yes (.) I think you are exactly right. And I think that is a regional  
5284 phenomena that I see it (.) I would like more of that at a global level. And I  
5285 think that that is good. And I am starting to feel more like when I go to  
5286 Germany or France or Netherlands or other EU countries I am starting to  
5287 feel more of an EU like citizen. Even like here I am starting to feel more as  
5288 an EU citizen but UK is always a bit separate. But I am starting to feel more  
5289 like an EU citizen than a Romanian. And as I mentioned it in the beginning  
5290 (.) I personally don't like to identify myself with the nationality. Whether in  
5291 the future I might have Japanese citizenship or UK citizenship that doesn't  
5292 matter (.) I don't like to identify myself with the country I am coming from.

5293 Henry: But you were saying about identifying with the EU then (.) you feel an  
5294 affinity to being European (.) that is something that means something to  
5295 you?

5296 Marina: Right (.) you point it out very well I think. No I mean I wouldn't be  
5297 particularly proud to identify myself as a European citizen but the reason I  
5298 like it in this context is because it feels a bit more like what I was saying  
5299 before that we shouldn't have countries. So EU is sort of=

5300 Henry: =There is more commonality between people sort of thing? That if you say  
5301 (.) "You're an EU citizen." It feels like you have got more in common with  
5302 the people around you.

5303 Marina: Yes (.) it sort of enlarges the circle (.) it is not a country anymore (.) it is  
5304 this mass. And it is going towards that direction of a global citizen that you  
5305 are just a citizen of this Earth and you can be freely living (.) just creating  
5306 your life wherever you want on the Planet. So I think that I like to think  
5307 about myself as EU because it is heading in the direction of a global  
5308 citizenship which I am thinking would be the right thing for us. I am sort of  
5309 promoting EU citizenship so it can then become bigger.

5310 Henry: A bit more than that?

5311 Marina: Yes.

5312 Henry: Yes (.) that is a nice idea really isn't it? It just feels because we do often  
5313 think with blinkers on don't we? We always think (.) like what you were  
5314 saying when you first moved (.) you know when you were 18 coming to the  
5315 UK (.) it was only when you moved here and you were looking back that  
5316 you feel like your culture was informing how you were seeing everything.  
5317 And you couldn't necessarily have known otherwise unless you had moved  
5318 around and you had started to see beyond that. It is a really interesting  
5319 perspective there. Yes (.) sorry.

5320 Marina: That is alright.

5321 Henry: I can think about these things forever because obviously that is what I do. I  
5322 am quite happy at this point. Is there anything else that you want to talk  
5323 about? Anything else that you wanted to tell me about that I have not asked  
5324 or that we have not touched on?

5325 Marina: Just to get just a tiny bit back to your point. It related to this EU citizenship  
5326 and global citizenship and how (.) I think that is impressive because there  
5327 was I think (.) possibly Charles de Gaulle or someone around the Second  
5328 World War has said that in a sort of conference and I can't remember which  
5329 one it was. But someone basically maybe like (.) what was it more than 50  
5330 years ago? Had said that in the future we will only have two major  
5331 countries (.) which they might be wrong with China coming up. But we will  
5332 have two major countries that will lead the world and that is going to be the  
5333 European States (.) United States which will then be incorporating different  
5334 cultures and different regions all with their specificities. And I think that is  
5335 the direction which we are heading. And that is going to come to  
5336 incorporate more to the extent to which we will become global citizens and  
5337 just have freedom to move. I don't know if that is going to be happening in  
5338 my lifetime (.) I am hoping it is but (.)

5339 Henry: It will be interesting (.) won't it? And all this sort of national press on  
5340 immigration it is sort of then is dwarfed isn't it? It is awful trivialised isn't  
5341 it? Why are people making such a fuss of French people or German people  
5342 or Romanian people or whatever because it will all be on a bigger scale  
5343 then (.) won't it?

5344 Marina: Right.

5345 Henry: Yes. What was the name of the? What you were saying (.) the person with  
5346 that theory (.) the European and American continent?

5347 Marina: I think it might have been Charles de Gaulle at a conference in Paris.

5348 Henry: De Gaulle? Was he French (.) was he the General (.) come Prime Minister  
5349 type?

5350 Marina: Yes (.) I think so. I am not sure (.) I might be wrong. I might be mis-  
5351 remembering because this is something I know from my history classes  
5352 back in school. So it is quite a few good years back.

5353 Henry: It sounds familiar. I think he was quite a nationalist. I think he was quite (.)  
5354 yes. I remember studying him in school as well (.) De Gaulle (.) the name  
5355 rings a bell.

5356 Marina: It was a declaration that he has given at one of the major congresses (.) like  
5357 political meetings (.) it was a major one after one of the wars. And I am  
5358 thinking it probably was the Second World War.

5359 Henry: Yes (.) it would have been more (.) yes because of the Cold War probably  
5360 (.) that sort of climate would have probably made them much more (.)  
5361 obviously European unification was a big thing then wasn't it?

5362 Marina: Yes but at that point in time he was just (.) "It's not going to happen." I  
5363 think it is a visionary (.) he was a visionary man to say that.

5364 Henry: Yes (.) very much a man of the time thinking about how to prevent that war  
5365 again on a worst scale. It is very interesting then isn't it to think about  
5366 where it is going to end up.

5367 Marina: So that is what gives me hope that eventually the Planet is going to look  
5368 like the way I think it should look like as a global sort of place where  
5369 people have freedom to move around (.) wherever they want to live. And  
5370 live in the culture they feel that (.) Because I just think the West and the  
5371 East (.) I just think that we might be tempted to think (.) "Oh if this country  
5372 was to be open (.) everyone would go wherever (.) New York (.) Paris (.)  
5373 London (.) Tokyo." I don't think that is the case. I think it might be in the  
5374 first instance and you would get some quite serious issues with immigration  
5375 and population (.) higher numbers of population in this sort of place but I  
5376 think eventually people (.) sooner rather than later would end up in different  
5377 places.

5378 Henry: That it would even out? Because it has to surely. People would move if  
5379 there wasn't a job there for them or if there wasn't a place to live or if there  
5380 wasn't enough food or electricity (.) people would just move wouldn't  
5381 they?

5382 Marina: Yes. And not only that (.) like not only these practical aspects but I think  
5383 some people would just give up all those commodities for being in the  
5384 culture that they want to be. And speaking the language that they wanted to  
5385 speak.

5386 Henry: And for you that would (.) by the sounds of it involve speaking Japanese  
5387 wouldn't it?

5388 Marina: Yes (.) for me yes. I am planning on doing that so that would apply to my  
5389 particular case. I would just have my modest job in the city in Japan (.) that  
5390 is not Tokyo necessarily than being well off in London and stuff like that. I  
5391 think I would be much happier there.

5392 Henry: You are happy to risk it for the climate (.) you know for the volcanoes and  
5393 the earthquakes?

5394 Marina: Oh yes.

5395 Henry: I mean that idea personally terrifies me but then the buildings are much  
5396 better there aren't they? They are designed to withstand earthquakes aren't  
5397 they?

5398 Marina: Yes. But even so like Japan (.) I would still choose to go somewhere in  
5399 China or Taiwan maybe rather than (.) I am not planning to stay in the UK  
5400 all my life. I have enjoyed it here (.) it was a tremendous time (.) I loved it.  
5401 I don't feel British but I feel I am part of the UK. I feel I am part of the  
5402 community and I am very grateful for the years that I spent here but it is  
5403 just that I feel I belong somewhere else. And I think we all might have this  
5404 sort of place. Some people maybe not but I tend to think people would  
5405 generally have a place they feel they belong to. So if there was free  
5406 immigration and free movement around the globe (.) people would end up  
5407 living in the place that they belonged to. That might sound a bit idealistic.

5408 Henry: Well (.) I was just going to say then even though it does sound idealistic (.)  
5409 you know not as an interviewer here but from a personal point of view I  
5410 totally agree with you. I think we should think idealistically otherwise what  
5411 have you got to aspire to? That really is (.) for me (.) the ability to move (.)  
5412 it doesn't even matter if you don't but the idea that you could (.) you have  
5413 that freedom it is quite a wonderful thing isn't it?

5414 Marina: Right. What else I would like to add? I don't know if this is relevant but it  
5415 was interesting because I knew I was having this interview with you. And a  
5416 few days ago it was posted on a group (.) on a Facebook group (.)  
5417 Romanian students somewhere. It was a post about a blog (.) a British girl I  
5418 think she was posting about how us Brits see Romanian students (.) and  
5419 that was interesting for me because I haven't really thought much about it.

5420 Henry: About how other students might see you?

5421 Marina: Yes (.) I have thought a lot about how I see British students but I have  
5422 barely thought anything about how British students see Romanian students.  
5423 Not me (.) as an individual but Romanian students as a group. And that was  
5424 very interesting because if you ask me how do you think British students  
5425 see Romanian students? I would have probably had a lot more relaxed  
5426 opinion that what I had before coming to the UK. But it would still have  
5427 been less positive as compared to the past. Now I know that is just one post  
5428 written by one person but the sorts of arguments that she brought in and the  
5429 sort of things that she was talking about as Romanians students in the UK  
5430 being quite generally hard working (.) studying quite diligently and things  
5431 like language abilities and (.) What else was she saying? She was talking  
5432 about being quite knowledgeable and having a good idea about several

5433 topics. So things like that which I couldn't disagree with. I think that  
5434 because of the education that we have received in Romania and because of  
5435 all the sort of things that we had to remember (.) I think that is what created  
5436 the opportunity for us to sort of embed these sorts of advantages. It doesn't  
5437 necessarily have to be like that but it is a ground on which you can build  
5438 disadvantages. So I think it is probably not untrue. So those are things that I  
5439 actually never have thought of in terms of like (.)

5440 Henry: Thinking outside the box to what other people might think?

5441 Marina: Yes (.) I didn't used to see them as advantages and now I am thinking.  
5442 Because I saw them more like just natural things to have (.) to be. So I think  
5443 it is very interesting from that point of view to how do you see the  
5444 Romanian students as a group (.) not me.

5445 Henry: It has just occurred to me (.) you mentioned earlier if you don't mind me  
5446 asking did you say you have a boyfriend in Romania?

5447 Marina: I dated a guy for all the way through my undergraduate that lives in  
5448 Romania.

5449 Henry: So there was a distance thing going on there?

5450 Marina: Yes.

5451 Henry: Was that difficult for you?

5452 Marina: On a personal level (.) yes. Yes (.) on a personal level there was.

5453 Henry: Because I think it very much is part of your experience isn't it? If you are  
5454 having to keep that tie whilst being here and setting up a new life. I think it  
5455 probably would be inaccurate I suppose wouldn't it to see it purely as you  
5456 starting life here if you are having to keep that sort of commitment going. It  
5457 just occurred to me (.) I remember you mentioning it earlier.

5458 Marina: No (.) that is quite a good point you made there actually. Because I think  
5459 that deterred my (.) not deterred but delayed my integration in a way. Even  
5460 in the campus community because I was less likely to get involved in clubs  
5461 (.) to go out to do activities because I was sometimes not tied to a person  
5462 who was abroad (.) in another country. But I was so keen on that  
5463 relationship that I wasn't as much interested in going and meeting up and  
5464 setting roots here and making friendships that would tie me to this place. So  
5465 I wasn't that much keen on that. Once my relationship started having less  
5466 and less importance (.) I would say and I started to make more friends  
5467 where I was in the UK and started to value more really what I had in the  
5468 UK. It was (.) as you said (.) it was almost as a dual thing. I had two sorts of  
5469 (.)

5470 Henry: Two lives?

5471 Marina: Yes (.) kind of like that and you can see it like that. So once I started to (.)  
5472 my relationship started losing importance for me and the life that I had there  
5473 (.) that sort of thing and I started to value this more (.) I started to realise

5474 that maybe if I didn't have that tieback to Romania I would have integrated  
5475 much faster. And I would have started to feel part of the community.

5476 Not that I didn't feel enough like that but if I didn't have that I think I might  
5477 have been (.) I would have done some steps earlier like going out in the  
5478 societies and going for some sort of jobs like the one that I mentioned to  
5479 you about (.) that brought me some advantages.

5480 Henry: The volunteering (.) the English classes and that?

5481 Marina: Yes. So that was something that I didn't have to do. I didn't have a good  
5482 reason to do it (.) I didn't have a specific purpose for doing it it was just  
5483 because my friend asked me to and because I thought to myself (.) "Well  
5484 this is going to help me. It's going to put me out there in the society  
5485 interacting with people. Give me some work experience." And that was  
5486 something that I wanted to do. It was a good thing (.) I have seen it as a  
5487 good thing. Even though as I have said at that point I wasn't planning to  
5488 stay here for as long as I stayed in the end. So I thought that was good. I  
5489 wanted (.) it was obvious that I wanted to get integrated (.) to be more of a  
5490 citizen here (.) so that is why I went for it. And I think that if it wasn't for  
5491 that link that I had in Romania I would have been keener on taking these  
5492 sorts of steps before. I mean way sooner in the process of me being a  
5493 student here (.) integrating.

5494 Henry: That is very interesting. It sounds almost like (.) if I have interpreted  
5495 correctly that almost like it was an anchor and it was holding you in a  
5496 certain place rather than letting you move on with settling down here. It was  
5497 somehow (.) not necessarily stopping you but it was holding you back  
5498 maybe.

5499 Marina: Yes (.) it was holding back from (.) Because you know when you live  
5500 somewhere (.) you make an investment in the place (.) in the people so it  
5501 was making me less likely to be willing to invest in something.

5502 Henry: Yes (.) I am just thinking (.) I didn't mean holding back as in in a negative  
5503 way but just hold you back from perhaps doing something that you might  
5504 have wanted to do. Because with any decision you do that means you can't  
5505 do something else (.) just in that sense.

5506 Marina: Yes (.) no it did make sense. I just wanted to (.)

5507 Henry: Yes (.) say that relationship was a waste of time (.) why are you bothering. I  
5508 just realised it when I said it (.) that probably sounded quite harsh.

5509 Marina: No (.) it didn't sound wrong. I just wanted to add to that. But I think that is  
5510 right.

5511 Henry: Yes. If I had listened to it (.) yes I don't think that I was (.) I myself have  
5512 been in long distance relationships so I can relate to what you were (.) yes  
5513 when you are investing in things it is important that (.) I suppose (.) yes (.)  
5514 it is about knowing what you want to invest in and knowing that it will have  
5515 a consequence for other things you can or can't do (.) because you are on  
5516 the phone to them or whatever else might be going on.

5517 Marina: Yes (.) I think that is my point about it (.) about investing and for me it  
5518 would feel that it is complicating my life more if I invested in the (.) That  
5519 was just for the first like (.) thinking back on it (.) it was probably the first  
5520 two years that I was more likely to feel like that. It was in the first two years  
5521 that I was a lot more confident that for me it was going to be the studying  
5522 experience here and then I will go back to Romania for a while. Because I  
5523 always knew I wanted to move to East Asia but as far as my plan actually  
5524 went was go finish uni in the UK (.) go back and then find a way to move to  
5525 East Asia. Because I knew I wanted that before I came to study in the UK. I  
5526 would have probably gone to study in East Asia if I could have afforded  
5527 that but it wasn't really an option for me because of high costs of education  
5528 in Japan or countries like that. So I think it was for the first two years that I  
5529 spent in the UK that that cost of investing in the people around me here in  
5530 the UK was weighted a lot more. I am actually like saying this from the  
5531 student perspective (.) I think it is good when you go to a new country to  
5532 study to not have that sort of thing that ties you back (.) whether it is a  
5533 boyfriend or a girlfriend or if it is a group of friends or anything else. It can  
5534 be other things but I think it is beneficial if you don't have and if you tried  
5535 to just leave that behind and see what life brings to you and make the most  
5536 out of that (.) that moment.

5537 Henry: So I suppose it goes back to the thing you were saying when I asked you  
5538 about what home was to you? That the place you are at now (.) what you  
5539 are doing makes sense to you because you are simply starting (.) If you  
5540 want to go somewhere (.) this is what it will involve and that is how you do  
5541 it and you are liberated in that way. It sounds like you know where you are  
5542 at because you have had those experiences of being held down in certain  
5543 ways?

5544 Marina: Yes (.) I think that is right. I think that helped me thinking in that way (.)  
5545 this experience helped me think in that way. Though this is not to say that  
5546 back when I was in my second year maybe I thought of home as being in  
5547 Romania. Because at that point I still saw UK as my home because that is  
5548 where I lived and as I said that is where I was carrying on my day to day  
5549 activities. So I still think I saw the UK (.) my student accommodation as my  
5550 home but I have learned from being somehow tied down to that (.) I have  
5551 learnt the importance of not regarding (.) Not letting yourself being  
5552 drugged or something. And the importance of making the most out of your  
5553 situation and circle and that has helped me. That help me gain confidence  
5554 ultimately because we are just individuals (.) we don't have anything really.  
5555 We are born in this world just as we are so that is what we should most rely  
5556 on. The other things that come with it (.) yes those are advantages and I am  
5557 lucky (.) I am sure likely to have some other people to have of their own but  
5558 in the end it should be that we are just on our own. So that is how (.)

5559 Henry: Very philosophical that is.

5560 Marina: Okay (.) sorry I didn't mean to go like that.

5561 Henry: No (.) no I love it. I could read philosophy all day (.) yes. It is interesting  
5562 speaking to a psychology graduate who talks so philosophically about  
5563 things. Normally people that do psychology tend to be quite (.) My

5564 background is in psychology but often you get sort of a (.) I don't know it is  
5565 much more surfaced level behavioural type (.) "This is the way I think  
5566 about it (.)" That is it. Whereas some of your answers they are penetrating  
5567 (.) they go right through and it is nice. It has been really interesting talking  
5568 to you about your experiences.

5569 Marina: Yes (.) I hope it helped.

5570 Henry: It has been really nice listening to your stories really because it is very  
5571 unique (.) your whole story is unique isn't it in its own way?

5572 Marina: Yes (.) I mean I didn't know exactly what your study was about because  
5573 you didn't want to tell me. I think that is part of your purpose of the  
5574 research so because of that I just tended to lay it out and you can choose  
5575 what is interesting for you out of the experience that I tried to sort of  
5576 portray there.

5577 Henry: I hope it doesn't seem like I have withheld it in a deceptive way?

5578 Marina: Oh no.

5579 Henry: I suppose it is that (.) like with the schedule I have got these are just sort of  
5580 prompts for me to think about certain things that might be pertinent as you  
5581 talk (.) well as people talk about things. But I suppose it is not something  
5582 that you could sort of write an answer to and ever do justice to it because I  
5583 think you could always think about it in different ways. So I suppose I am  
5584 always relying on how people understand that question when I ask it  
5585 however difficult and obscure I might make it sound. Because obviously we  
5586 always make things sound more complicated when we say it as when we  
5587 write it but I wouldn't want it to seem like a (.) "This is your exam question  
5588 (.) how are you going to answer it?" But I understand and actually because  
5589 you emailed me didn't you? You emailed me to say (.) "If you could send  
5590 me the questions so I can have a think about it." I did feel bad I must admit  
5591 because I felt (.) "Oh she wants to prepare. She wants to make sure that she  
5592 can do justice or whatever to what I might ask."

5593 Marina: Oh no (.) sorry I interrupted you. Carry on.

5594 Henry: No (.) no I was just going to say it has been really interesting listening to  
5595 your stories.

5596 Marina: Yes (.) the reason why I said that is because I think you are focussing on  
5597 some topics in your research and I wanted to help you. And I thought that  
5598 because of my experience (.) I have quite vast experience of being in the  
5599 UK and studying here and all the (.) I have been through all the (.) most of  
5600 it at least Romanian integration in the EU period. So I thought that I would  
5601 be able to help you and I am probably going to be able to speak about these  
5602 sorts of aspects that you are looking at. But I wanted your questions  
5603 because it has been such a long time (.) as then you have seen. I am sure I  
5604 would have had examples that were relevant and I just wanted to think  
5605 about the examples that I could give because it is just difficult to remember  
5606 things at times when you don't (.)

5607 Henry: Yes (.) understandably yes when you are asked on the spot.



5608 Marina: So that is why I thought. But if you thought it was better for me to not know  
5609 the questions or the sort of questions.

5610 Henry: Well I mean you came up with some examples earlier anyway didn't you? I  
5611 suppose it is really that sometimes the examples can help make sense of  
5612 what you want your answer to be. Sometimes the answer can seem quite  
5613 abstract and then you ask for an example (.) "Oh actually this is probably a  
5614 better way of saying it." That was the main thing really (.) it is not that I  
5615 will necessarily (.) "This is their example (.) this is what it means." It is  
5616 more just as a sense making thing to help you or any participant think about  
5617 what sort of answer might make sense because it is based on something that  
5618 you might have experienced.

5619 Marina: Right (.) that is exactly the point (.) yes. Because as you said I sounded  
5620 quite philosophical (.) I didn't want to sound like that.

5621 Henry: Well no (.) I like it. I like that sort of discussion because ultimately it does  
5622 actually quite often go down into that (.) what do you actually want it to be  
5623 about? What does it actually mean to you? And that is a very deep question  
5624 (.) for everyone it is a deep (.) personal question isn't it?

5625 Marina: Yes.

5626 Henry: When they move around and when they start a new life somewhere it is as  
5627 basic as it gets isn't it? Like what you were saying.

5628 Marina: Yes (.) I think that if I would have had the questions in advance probably I  
5629 wouldn't have sounded that way because all I have said are things that I  
5630 probably believe in (.) right but they are just empirical evidence and they  
5631 aren't very well formulated because I don't always think about them.

5632 Henry: No (.) no and this is the thing we just live our lives don't we? Not always (.)  
5633 "Oh I wonder how I'm doing this or that." It is exhausting (.) you couldn't  
5634 do it every day.

5635 Marina: Yes. So that is why but it is not a big thing. I hope that touched on the  
5636 points that you are investigating and?

5637 Henry: Yes (.) it has been a really interesting interview and I have really enjoyed  
5638 our conversation. Hopefully it has been enjoyable for you as well but it is  
5639 (.) I will turn these off now. I think the thing that people feel quite  
5640 ((transcript ends))

### *Transcript 6: Alina*

- 5641 Henry: -for some reason. To begin would you just like to tell me a little bit about yourself  
5642 (.) so what you do?
- 5643 Alina: Yes (.) I just graduated from university last year and now I am working for a  
5644 government department.
- 5645 Henry: Do you live in Sheffield?
- 5646 Alina: Yes (.) I live in Sheffield. Shall I talk a bit more about it?
- 5647 Henry: Yes (.) anything you feel (.) Like where in Romania you are from?
- 5648 Alina: I am from Bacau which is the Moldova part of the country which is in the east. I  
5649 came to the UK in 2005 as an au pair. Then I moved to London to work (.) from  
5650 there to Maidstone and then I moved to Sheffield for university and now I work  
5651 here.
- 5652 Henry: So you have moved quite a lot.
- 5653 Alina: Yes.
- 5654 Henry: When you say you moved here in 2005 what was the term you used?
- 5655 Alina: As an au pair (.) which is like a country exchange programme to build on your  
5656 language skills (.) to learn English and to go to English (places). At the same time  
5657 you are looking after the children in the family like a live-in nanny sort of=
- 5658 Henry: =Okay (.) I have never heard of that term.
- 5659 Alina: I think it is open for every nationality so you can travel a lot. You just have to be  
5660 under 26 and be able to look after the children for five hours a day. The rest of  
5661 time you are=
- 5662 Henry: =Free to roam and do what you like.
- 5663 Alina: Yes.
- 5664 Henry: So it is a little bit like Erasmus then in a sense you do like an exchange thing but it  
5665 is obviously based on doing a little bit of babysitting.
- 5666 Alina: Yes (.) it is not academic basically because you have to pay for your own college  
5667 tuition in a way. You do get pocket money from the family. It is like an  
5668 ethnography in a way because you live within the culture.
- 5669 Henry: Was it an English family you ended up staying with?
- 5670 Alina: Yes.
- 5671 Henry: And you bonded with them over the time that you were↑?
- 5672 Alina: Yes (.) for six months I lived in a small village and then I moved to London to live  
5673 with another family. I basically wanted to broaden my horizons and live in a  
5674 bigger city to experience life in a different way.
- 5675 Henry: Your experiences of moving to somewhere that you didn't know what the family  
5676 was going to be like necessarily (.) how did you find that?

5677 Alina: I was 18 at the time so I didn't really care that much about my safety.

5678 Henry: You were a bit naive and all of that sort of thing.

5679 Alina: Yes (.) you kind of have that perception of England of being perfectly safe and  
5680 nothing can really happen to you and everybody is really nice. I never actually had  
5681 any problems (.) I think that took me a year. Then I moved back to Romania to  
5682 study at university as I had always planned. I wanted to earn some money and pass  
5683 my English test which was quite expensive in Romania so this way I could pay for  
5684 it. Then after a year I fell in love so I came back for romantic reasons. We moved  
5685 to London together (.) from there we worked for a year and a half and then we  
5686 decided to move outside of London for financial reasons and for job reasons for  
5687 my husband as well. Then after three years of working in accountancy I decided to  
5688 go to university to start a new degree because I wasn't happy with the degree I was  
5689 doing in Romania.

5690 Henry: Was it accountancy you were doing in Romania?

5691 Alina: No (.) it was economics for one year. Then obviously I had to decide if I should  
5692 stay there to finish my degree or to move back to England. Like I said for romantic  
5693 reasons I decided to move back to England. Then I have studied accountancy with  
5694 the Home Learning College while I was working for a year. I got a job as an  
5695 accountant in Maidstone and my husband requalified as a lorry driver at the same  
5696 time. We decided to pack everything and move outside of London. It was an  
5697 economic decision (.) but mostly from a cultural point of view we wanted to get  
5698 away from the Romanian community from London as well and just start a new  
5699 life. After three years we decided to get married and save up for a house (.) so that  
5700 is why we decided to move to Sheffield because the houses were cheaper here. I  
5701 got accepted at university here (.) so basically we could have=

5702 Henry: =Everything fell into place didn't it?

5703 Alina: Yes.

5704 Henry: And you have been here since.

5705 Alina: Yes (.) four years now.

5706 Henry: You say you moved in 2005 when you were 18 that would make you 27?

5707 Alina: Yes ((laughter))

5708 Henry: So you have been here for quite a while obviously moving back and forth and  
5709 moving within the country.

5710 Alina: Yes (.) only once.

5711 Henry: There is a lot to take in there. If you don't mind me saying I can't believe how  
5712 quickly you were able to recall all of that because that is quite a lot of life that you  
5713 are talking about.

5714 Alina: Especially if you have to fill in application forms and you have to put your last  
5715 addresses for three years.

5716 Henry: Yes (.) I suppose you will have to reflect on it won't you.

5717 Alina: True.

5718 Henry: If you don't mind me asking is your husband English?

5719 Alina: No (.) he is Romanian.

5720 Henry: He is Romanian as well.

5721 Alina: Yes (.) he had more of a tumultuous life than me. We met the third day after I  
5722 arrived in England which was pure luck. The next day after we met he was  
5723 deported back to Romania because at the time we were outside of the European  
5724 Union. Basically we were separated for a year (.) so that is why I decided in the  
5725 next year to move back to Romania.

5726 Henry: He would have moved back when the transition controls started was it?

5727 Alina: That was in 2007 because he had one year of interdiction so he couldn't leave the  
5728 country.

5729 Henry: Did he have to get a work permit after that?

5730 Alina: Yes (.) it was a yellow registration card I think or a blue registration card they  
5731 called it at the time.

5732 Henry: It must have taken quite a while to get that through as well.

5733 Alina: Not really.

5734 Henry: Didn't it? Okay.

5735 Alina: When he came back he started work with the same employer that he worked for  
5736 before (.) so he was allowed to work without an actual registration card. During  
5737 that time he managed to set up all the bank accounts (.) proof of address and so on  
5738 (.) so in a couple of months he managed to get the yellow card.

5739 Henry: I suppose it is like what we were saying earlier with me it is not what you know it  
5740 is who you sometimes.

5741 Alina: Exactly.

5742 Henry: Because he already had a job and he already had a relationship with an employer it  
5743 made life easier.

5744 Alina: Yes (.) because the employer was foreign as well that made it a bit easier I guess to  
5745 understand for them.

5746 Henry: Yes (.) because they could have a sense of what sort of challenges he might face.

5747 Alina: Yes.

5748 Henry: What about your family background are you the first to go off and do uni and all  
5749 of that sort of thing?

5750 Alina: Yes (.) I come from a working class background. My father works in a factory and  
5751 my mum is a teaching assistant. I was the only one to go to university. My brother  
5752 tried but he couldn't afford it financially. One of the reasons for me leaving the  
5753 country was to raise some money was so I could afford to go university back  
5754 home. I always wanted to study in a bigger city and the city I came from was quite  
5755 small and it only offered limited options (.) because it was so expensive I decided  
5756 to go and work for a year and pass my English test and so on. I always thought I  
5757 was going to go to university and I never thought it was never out something out  
5758 of the ordinary. Everybody in my generation went to university as well. I went to a  
5759 good high school and a bilingual college as well and they always instilled that in  
5760 us. I am sorry.

5761 Henry: Do you want me to pause the recorder?

5762 Alina: No (.) that is fine.

5763 Henry: Honestly if you want to answer it that is absolutely fine because I can just pause it  
5764 (.) it is not a problem.

5765 Alina: At the college I was studying at there were a lot of English professors coming to  
5766 teach certain things for example English or ecological studies or so on. We had an  
5767 English library as well with books donated from England as well. We always had a  
5768 connection with England so it was never (.) We had the British Counsel (.) I think  
5769 that is what it is called (.) and they always encouraged us to learn English and so  
5770 on. Everybody in my generation basically went to university. I was the first one in  
5771 my family to go to university (.) everybody else after me went as well. It is more  
5772 of a generation thing.

5773 Henry: It certainly comes across that way that even though your family might have had  
5774 different trajectories for you within your own friendship groups at school it just  
5775 felt like a natural (.) I suppose that would have been what your teachers were  
5776 trying to instil in you as well.

5777 Alina: Yes (.) exactly.

5778 Henry: Something that seems to come across with the Romanian education system is as  
5779 time has gone on they seem to be emphasising that path more. From what another  
5780 participant was saying there is quite a big emphasis on accountancy and a lot of  
5781 courses in that.

5782 Alina: Yes (.) working in banks.

5783 Henry: Banks.

5784 Alina: Yes (.) that is the number one university degree I think banks and finance.

5785 Henry: So the opposite of here then where you wouldn't want to do banking now.  
5786 ((laughter))

5787 Alina: It is probably because when they choose the university degree they have to choose  
5788 practically because if you spend a lot of money on university you have to make  
5789 that money ba[ck in way]

5790 Henry: [Yes (.) once] you finish you can't go and do  
5791 something frivolous like zoological studies if you don't want to become a vet or  
5792 something.

5793 Alina: Yes (.) exactly.

5794 Henry: I am going to have to be quite careful because the questions are quite sequential  
5795 but we are talking quite a lot of different things.

5796 Alina: I will try to be more=

5797 Henry: =No (.) that wasn't an evaluation of that. It is just to forgive my hesitation  
5798 sometimes with the questions. You started it in Romania didn't you (.) you did a  
5799 year there?

5800 Alina: Yes.

5801 Henry: As far as going to university in England then was it purely based on your own  
5802 personal circumstances that made you choose to finish off in England then?

5803 Alina: I think it was a personal choice because I felt quite disappointed in myself for not  
5804 graduating from university. My husband always encouraged me to go to university  
5805 because he knew that is what I had always wanted. I think it took us a day or two  
5806 to decide I was going to go to university (.) it was all last minute. I went through  
5807 the clearance process so I only had a couple of days to decide. We just packed our  
5808 bags and decided I was going to go to university. Obviously I had to decide on a  
5809 city that allowed us to buy a house as well because that was on our to-do list as  
5810 well. Sheffield has a reasonable house price range (.) so that was one of the  
5811 reasons I decided on Sheffield. It was between Sheffield and Northampton. I  
5812 always wanted to study psychology and sociology and because in Romania I  
5813 studied economics purely from a financial point of view because it would have  
5814 been a good job after graduation. I kind of felt that if I am in England I am allowed  
5815 to study whatever I want. I had already decided I didn't want to work with  
5816 numbers or finance. I had already worked as an accountant for two and a half years  
5817 and I didn't like it (.) I hated it. Then I decided money is not everything in life and  
5818 if you can study whatever you want you might as well=

5819 Henry: =Do something you enjoy.

5820 Alina: Exactly (.) so for three years I just read whatever I wanted. I didn't really have to  
5821 decide at that point exactly what I wanted to do with my future afterwards (.) so I  
5822 could just focus on my studies and just enjoy my time here. It was kind of a break  
5823 from real life in a way. I didn't really have to focus on the finance side of it  
5824 probably because we already had some money saved up. We had a house we didn't  
5825 really have to pay any rent and our mortgage was really low as well. I didn't really  
5826 feel forced to=

5827 Henry: =So it wasn't pressure for you.

5828 Alina: Yes (.) exactly. It was my choice to work part-time (.) I had three jobs while I was  
5829 at university but it was always in areas that I wanted to work in (.) it was in social  
5830 research or doing volunteering with children. It was always something that I  
5831 wanted to do (.) which is a luxury sometimes because you can't say that everybody  
5832 works in their dream job. For me it was a good time for three years and now as  
5833 well.

5834 Henry: You do come across as someone who likes reading.

5835 Alina: Yes.

5836 Henry: You saying (.) "I can read whatever I want." You sound like the person who would  
5837 like to just go to a library (.) pick something off the shelf and have an afternoon  
5838 with their book.

5839 Alina: Yes (.) when I was younger my mum used to drag me out of my room so I stopped  
5840 reading and stopped studying.

5841 Henry: You're joking? Most parents drag their kids to their rooms to study!

5842 Alina: That is how I ruined my sight that is what she always said. ((laughter))

5843 Henry: You were saying earlier on when you were coming to England you had some ideas  
5844 of what England was like (.) could you expand a little bit more on that? Things  
5845 that you had about the culture and what the people were like (.) anything like that.

5846 Alina: I remember the first time we got cable TV it was after communism fell. We got a  
5847 black and white TV and we got cable. It was Cartoon Network and all of the  
5848 English and American kind of TV. That is how I learned English (.) so that was

5849 my first contact with the language I was like five or six or so on. I know my  
5850 brother and I used to speak in English with each other so we can pretend that our  
5851 parents couldn't (.) Obviously they don't speak English so they couldn't  
5852 understand us. We always had a dream that we were going to go to England  
5853 together my brother and I and sell tulips. I don't know why. That was my first  
5854 experience and my first thought of England. Then obviously after I went to  
5855 school we had a lot of contact with English people (.) English tutors and English  
5856 volunteers. I volunteered for the Red Cross which had a country exchange  
5857 programme with people from Sheffield University actually. We were the hosts at  
5858 home for an English group so we talked a lot then about England. They explained  
5859 to me how England works (.) the university system and what you can study. I think  
5860 that is what made me believe that maybe England would be a good choice for me.  
5861 I never thought I was going to move here that was never in my plan. I always  
5862 wanted to go to university in Romania to study literature and Romanian culture. I  
5863 was quite interested in anthropology and the traditions of Romania. I used to work  
5864 on projects relating to culture (.) traditions and religion and so on. The traditional  
5865 wear and older style of languages and so on. I never actually wanted to move to  
5866 another country probably because I loved Romania traditions so much so it was  
5867 never really on the cards. It was just to broaden my horizons in a way (.) to pass  
5868 the English test which was important. Most people in Romania speak English  
5869 anyway so it was mostly a requirement for most high paid jobs to have at least one  
5870 foreign language. At school you are usually taught at least one language (.) mostly  
5871 two foreign languages for this reason so you can have better choices in life in the  
5872 future.

5873 Henry: Are there other languages that you speak then?

5874 Alina: Only French and English and English doesn't really count as a foreign language  
5875 any more does it.

5876 Henry: Well if you are in Romania it is a foreign language so it is quite reasonable.  
5877 Obviously we are speaking in English now (.) but it is quite reasonable to say that  
5878 from the perspective you are speaking from.

5879 Alina: Obviously most Romanians speak and understand Italian and Spanish because of  
5880 the similarities in the language.

5881 Henry: It is the romance language isn't it.

5882 Alina: Exactly (.) because we study Latin (.) which is not really a foreign language (.) we  
5883 study it for 12 years as well.

5884 Henry: Really?

5885 Alina: Yes.

5886 Henry: It is quite an archaic language because it is a=

5887 Alina: =It is (.) it is a dead language.

5888 Henry: For people who speak Latin it is like the papacy they speak it (.) but that is as far  
5889 as it goes really. The rest of it professors at universities that are reading an old  
5890 roman text or something.

5891 Alina: For us it is quite easy because 80% of Romanian is Latin anyway. It is kind of like  
5892 speaking Romanian but without the accent.

5893 Henry: That is an interesting way of putting it (.) so if I could learn Latin then I could  
5894 learn Romanian in that way.

5895 Alina: Yes (.) that is why I think if you learn Latin you already have four or five  
5896 languages that are open to. It is the same with Russian (.) if you speak Russian  
5897 then the similarities with all the Slavic languages. It is not 100% the same (.) but it  
5898 is quite similar [we're going to] go off track now=

5899 Henry: [We will probably]=have to go a bit off track. When you first  
5900 arrived in the UK can you think of any particular experiences (.) anything tangible  
5901 (.) any weird or memorable things that happened to you or conversations you  
5902 might have had?

5903 Alina: I remember the first day when I got in the house I was picked up at the airport and  
5904 I didn't get the chance to meet the children that I was going to look after. Then in  
5905 the morning I woke up and in my mind I was still in Romania somehow so my  
5906 mind didn't process the English language (.) so I started speaking to the children in  
5907 Romanian. In my mind I thought I was speaking English (.) so the children  
5908 actually got really scared and thought there was a weird person talking a different  
5909 language to them (.) so that wasn't too pleasant.

5910 Henry: Then after a few seconds you snapped out it.

5911 Alina: Yes (.) I think I had a panic moment that night as well. It was like (.) "What am I  
5912 doing here?" I didn't have any phone cards or anything to phone my family to let  
5913 them know that I was okay. I think in the first week it was scary to be on your own  
5914 especially in a small village with people that you don't know. You don't really  
5915 know what to expect. It is in a foreign country and everything is in a different  
5916 language obviously radio (.) TV and so on. It was quite a lot to take in all the  
5917 culture and even the food obviously (.) the tea. I didn't know beforehand that  
5918 English people drink tea with milk. I always thought it was English tea (.) but  
5919 actually no it is with milk.

5920 Henry: Prior to that would you have drunk tea black without any milk in?

5921 Alina: No (.) we only drink herbal teas and it is only if you are sick or ill.

5922 Henry: I see (.) so the sort of Lemsip type of things here really.

5923 Alina: Yes or like mint tea or chamomile tea. You have herbal teas especially for disease  
5924 that is why it took me a long time to get used to the cultural aspect of drinking  
5925 tea. It still works now (.) if somebody comes from Romania it is like (.) "Why are  
5926 drinking tea? Are you sick (.) are you ill (.) is there something wrong with you?"

5927 Henry: That is quite an interesting thing because of course when we went to get the drink  
5928 earlier (.) I asked if you wanted a seasonal coffee because obviously in Starbucks  
5929 and places they make a (thing) out of Christmas don't they. You are obviously  
5930 quite happy drinking tea now and over time=

5931 Alina: =It took a while.

5932 Henry: Yes (.) over time you have got used to it.

5933 Alina: Yes (.) I think it is representative of England as well. You kind of have to adapt as  
5934 well. It was something that we worked quite hard at from all points of view not  
5935 just drinking tea.

5936 Henry: Forcing yourself to drink tea (.) "I will like this."



5937 Alina: That is what it was at the beginning (.) “I have to like it.” If you are in an office  
5938 environment or anywhere else with English people you don’t really want to be  
5939 seen as not belonging. You don’t want to be the weird one out. As you know in an  
5940 office environment everybody makes tea for everybody else. If people are offering  
5941 you tea you have just got to drink it (.) you can’t really say no.

5942 Henry: So in your experience it has been quite a useful thing to drink tea because it gives  
5943 you that resource to=

5944 Alina: =Yes and you always have to have tea in the house. It was quite awkward at the  
5945 beginning when we had workers doing something in the house. You had to offer  
5946 them something and they said they wanted tea. If you didn’t have tea they would  
5947 look at you funny as if you are an immigrant. You have to adapt (.) “Why don’t  
5948 you have tea in the house?”

5949 Henry: As far as the food side goes you were saying the food is different. Do you prefer  
5950 Romanian food or is it something that you have got used to English food as well?

5951 Alina: I have grown to like it (.) grown to accept it. Obviously we have fish and chips (.)  
5952 but it is still difficult to adapt to the takeaway culture (.) to the processed food  
5953 culture. Obviously I cook a lot and food is perceived in Romania as part of the  
5954 family. I know it is a bit sexist but the woman still cooks in the family and the man  
5955 doesn’t in most situations I would think. I have always done it because I was  
5956 taught from an early age how to do all the Romanian foods.

5957 Henry: Home economics and that sort of thing.

5958 Alina: Yes (.) exactly. It is kind of a normal thing. My husband prefers English food more  
5959 than I do (.) so I tend to cook English food if there is such a thing as proper  
5960 English food.

5961 Henry: It is a weird thing for me to say English food because there aren’t that many things  
5962 we eat that are actually English because you call a curry as English food even  
5963 though we eat it here. I appreciate that is probably a weird question.

5964 Alina: I think the takeaway culture is quite central to the English way of life as well. We  
5965 don’t have takeaways in Romania except for pizza lately I think it is an Italian  
5966 introduction. We don’t really do that (.) so every time we have family round and  
5967 we order something it is perceived as being a big no-no somehow.

5968 Henry: It is better that you cook from scratch.

5969 Alina: Yes (.) exactly.

5970 Henry: At a family event what sort of things would you cook?

5971 Alina: Now we are organising the Romanian Christmas meal on Friday so all the women  
5972 (.) It sounds so sexist if you think about it now (.) but that is how we do it. Each  
5973 woman has their own (.) Probably because we come from different parts of  
5974 Romania so each of us know how to cook something else. For example the stuffed  
5975 vine leaves which are quite common on Eastern European countries (.) lots of meat  
5976 products (.) smoked products and smoked sausages. We just got a package from  
5977 my parents they sent 100kg of homemade wine. I don’t know if you know in  
5978 Romania everybody has their own vineyards (.) vodka and so on. We got a big  
5979 package and homemade food from my parents and my husband’s parents. It would  
5980 be mostly pork (.) pork is the staple diet in Romania. You smoke it (.) brine it (.)  
5981 pickle it (.) That is kind Romanian food.

5982 Henry: It sounds like a really interesting combination of different Mediterranean and  
5983 Central European. Sausages that is quite German isn't it and you have got (.) I am  
5984 trying to remember now what you said prior. It has gone now. Anyway (.) it comes  
5985 across that there are different cultural strains there that seem to.

5986 Alina: Romania was under foreign occupation (.) so I don't think we were ever a  
5987 sovereign state. Obviously from recent history we were (.) but before that it was  
5988 always the Turkish influence which was quite strong as well. The Greek influence  
5989 (.) the French influence a lot of it as well and mostly the Roman Empire which is  
5990 where we got the language as well.

5991 Henry: When you think about Romanian culture is that something that you think is talked  
5992 about a lot that you have descended from the Roman Empire or the Turkish  
5993 influence?

5994 Alina: I think so especially the Roman Empire. I think that is why it is easier for  
5995 Romanians to go and live in Italy because that is the number one immigrant  
5996 destination. I don't know how many millions of Romanians live in Italy (.) half of  
5997 my family lives in Italy as well and half of my husband's family lives in Italy. I  
5998 think there has always been a connection with the former Roman Empire as well.  
5999 Everybody knows about it (.) we are being taught a lot about it about our historical  
6000 background (.) so what we inherited from them. Obviously there is only a small  
6001 Catholic community. I am a Catholic as well and from my point of view I know a  
6002 bit more about that because we always had financial help from the Vatican as well.  
6003 It was always a religious and financial relation to Italy and obviously the former  
6004 Roman Empire as well.

6005 Henry: It is really interesting because from what you are saying it seems like Romania is  
6006 almost like an amalgamation of European countries in one rather than a member.  
6007 Obviously different nations have got very distinctive identities haven't they (.) but  
6008 from the way you are talking about it Romania seems to be a product of  
6009 everything.

6010 Alina: Yes (.) that is how it feels as well. I don't think we actually have an identity in a  
6011 way. We talk about identity a lot and everybody is being asked (.) "Who are you?"  
6012 Or (.) "What are you?" You don't really know what to answer in a way especially  
6013 now because I am also a British citizen so I have double citizenship it is always  
6014 difficult to answer the question I think. I don't feel Romanian but I don't feel  
6015 English either so I am somewhere in-between somehow. I think with certain areas  
6016 I am Romanian and certain areas I am British. I will never be 100% British  
6017 probably because of the accent that is the first question that everybody asks. When  
6018 you meet someone it is like (.) "Oh you have got a weird accent (.) an interesting  
6019 accent."

6020 Henry: Yes (.) interesting is an easy way of getting around the (.) "You sound different."

6021 Alina: At work every time when I move to a different team it is kind of awkward because  
6022 everybody is avoiding the question but they nominate a person to ask (.) so that is  
6023 a bit awkward as well.

6024 Henry: I think that is an English thing.

6025 Alina: I don't find it rude to be honest.

6026 Henry: I think it is a way to address it (.) but not like=

6027 Alina: =I bought a cup saying 'Romania' on it so I just put it on my desk. That caused  
6028 confusion because they only read the first part of it and thought I was from Rome.

6029 Henry: It doesn't always work.

6030 Alina: "Oh she is Italian."

6031 Henry: So the flag didn't work then?

6032 Alina: No (.) not really. I will try later.

6033 Henry: It is really interesting.

6034 Alina: Probably because I am the only foreign person in the whole department that makes  
6035 it difficult as well. That was kind of rude of some people to ask (.) they actually  
6036 asked if I have a work permit to work there.

6037 Henry: Is this recently?

6038 Alina: Yes (.) the last couple of months. My husband gets some awkward discussions as  
6039 well at work. I think lately it has been a bit worse than it used to be at the  
6040 beginning. In 2005 nobody actually cared or they were generally interested in  
6041 where I was from and talking about my country. Now because it is all over the  
6042 media and obviously we have had a bad reputation lately it is kind of awkward and  
6043 you kind of take it personally in a way every time somebody asks you. It was fine  
6044 before because they had a genuine interest (.) but now it doesn't feel so genuine  
6045 anymore.

6046 Henry: In the nine years you have been here it sounds like you are noticing a gradual trend  
6047 (.) a change then in the way that=

6048 Alina: =It is not really gradual.

6049 Henry: It has been quite severe then?

6050 Alina: Yes (.) I think from one month to the other or from one to three months. Obviously  
6051 it is the media that has portrayed us in such a way. That is why I was wondering  
6052 why does that media only talk about Romanians and not Romanians and  
6053 Bulgarians? Probably because there is a smaller proportion and they are a smaller  
6054 country obviously. There are some Bulgarians here as well (.) why aren't people  
6055 interested in them or why aren't we protected from a bad image as well? I know  
6056 we keep going back to the minority issue within Romania but there is a minority  
6057 issue in Bulgaria as well. You can't really blame the bad reputation on that. I  
6058 actually had a recent experience. I am a blood donor so the lady who was taking  
6059 the blood she was asking me where I am from and if I am from Romania. She said  
6060 (.) "Have you seen the situation with the Roma gypsies in Page Hall I know there  
6061 is a problem there. Are you familiar with them (.) are you friends with them?"  
6062 Assuming that we are from the same country (.) the same culture (.) probably from  
6063 the same village and I am the same as them and so on. It kind of felt a bit put to  
6064 one corner in a way. I had to explain the difference between countries (.) which  
6065 kind of felt a bit awkward.

6066 Henry: I imagine from what you are saying it is difficult because you want to get yourself  
6067 out of that position. You also want to educate to some extent (.) but not so it seems  
6068 that you are condescending.

6069 Alina: Exactly.

6070 Henry: It is a difficult tightrope isn't it?

6071 Alina: It is a different country so you don't really want to say that. Slovakia is there and  
6072 Romania is in a different part. I don't know why people confuse Romania with

6073 Russia which is totally not the same country just because it starts with R. I don't  
6074 think fair for me to generalise this. It has only been a couple of situations so  
6075 obviously not everybody is the same position. There are people more genuinely  
6076 interested (.) it is not necessarily a negative thing. I think it has happened more  
6077 lately.

6078 Henry: From my own perspective I think some of it might have to do with the way the UK  
6079 culture is towards Europe in a general way. We are an island which is a start and  
6080 as a people we are separate. It does perhaps inform how and it could even excuse  
6081 (.) "We don't know anything (.) but it is alright we are not attached to anyone."

6082 Alina: That is true.

6083 Henry: If you asked anyone what they know about Romania (.) if they don't think it is  
6084 Russia they would probably say Transylvania.

6085 Alina: Yes (.) that or the orphan situation that was in the news before communist times.  
6086 They are the associations of orphanages with disabled children (.) Dracula and  
6087 Transylvania. We do have some good things that people know about like Hagi or  
6088 Nadia Comăneci in sports. I think that is kind of our saviour because we did have  
6089 some positive things in the media. Obviously we do have positive things that are  
6090 not portrayed in the media. It is just the perception of people I think it comes from  
6091 the media mainly.

6092 Henry: The other thing I supposed as well you were saying confused with Russia. I must  
6093 admit I was surprised when I learned Romanian is a Latin language and not a  
6094 Slavic language. I was surprised because the entire region really is influenced by=

6095 Alina: =Yes (.) that is why we are quite special in that way I think. Even the mentality is  
6096 Latin (.) the way of life is Latin is well. You can have a palpable difference  
6097 between Bulgaria for example and Ukraine. We have friends from Ukraine and  
6098 they have different personalities and different ways of living their life. In Romania  
6099 I think everything is around family (.) food (.) parties (.) more like a=

6100 Henry: =Italian sounding or Spanish.

6101 Alina: Yes (.) exactly.

6102 Henry: Before a siesta in the afternoon it would be about family time and everyone is  
6103 together.

6104 Alina: The bad points (.) corruption is the same.

6105 Henry: Not as bad as Berlusconi surely?

6106 Alina: No (.) maybe worse.

6107 Henry: Maybe worse?

6108 Alina: It is getting better now with the new president I think lots of things will change. In  
6109 the first day when he was president he already arrested 30 people on corruption  
6110 from the parliament. I think they were trying to get the political immunity for all  
6111 parliament members. He just destroyed that legislation basically because they were  
6112 trying to obviously get self-immunity which is=

6113 Henry: =Yes (.) I suppose it was a bit like what Berlusconi was doing towards the end of  
6114 his. He was trying to make it so that prime ministers couldn't be arrested or  
6115 something like that. You can tell it is a little bit of a vested interested. ((laughter))  
6116 One of my questions was about how you found settling in. You have applied for

6117 British nationality and obviously been granted it. I suppose your language test was  
6118 a thing on your side on that part wasn't it?

6119 Alina: Yes (.) you don't actually get a language test. It is a life in the UK test (.) which  
6120 is=

6121 Henry: =A citizenship test.

6122 Alina: Yes (.) exactly.

6123 Henry: So English proficiency is not↑?

6124 Alina: No (.) I think they assume that you have to know English enough so you can pass  
6125 the test because you have a book and everything. I found the test quite difficult to  
6126 be fair. I like history (.) I like to think I know a bit of history and I know a bit of  
6127 geography but then I think that was a bit=

6128 Henry: =I failed.

6129 Alina: You failed (.) lots of English people did actually.

6130 Henry: I failed and I am born and bred here. I did a citizenship GCSE (.) I was one of the  
6131 first years to do that. When would I have taken it 2006 or 2007? Probably the  
6132 second or third year that citizenship GCSE (.) I got a C in it and I failed the  
6133 citizenship test. I think there is a little bit of a thing going on with how hard they  
6134 make it.

6135 Alina: Yes (.) I mean to be fair when I studied English in school we studied the origins of  
6136 English and we had to learn 'Beowulf' and so on. We had quite an in-depth  
6137 knowledge of England and English culture and then you get some weird questions  
6138 in the citizenship test.

6139 Henry: Like King Arthur and 'Beowulf' and things like that. How many constituencies  
6140 does it have?

6141 Alina: Yes (.) I don't even care.

6142 Henry: That is the point how many English people care when you think 10% of people  
6143 voted for their police commissioners when they were brought in and a 60%-odd  
6144 vote in the elections on average. You think how constituents they wouldn't bother  
6145 to vote=

6146 Alina: =I do think it is fair on the other side because I think citizenship is something that  
6147 you earn you shouldn't be granted it just because you are here and that it is. I think  
6148 you want to do it (.) you have to want to be involved and you have to be integrated  
6149 enough to care. If you are going to live in this country you might as well know  
6150 everything about it. Obviously you have the advantage of learning everything in  
6151 history (.) probably learning it (.) but then we don't. What if other people don't  
6152 know anything about England? I think they should be at the same level of  
6153 knowledge as people who were born here. I think sometimes it is kind of easy for  
6154 some people to pass the test.

6155 Henry: How would you feel about in your particular situation you would have had lots of  
6156 different work experience and voluntary experience here. Do you not feel that  
6157 would have been enough if you'd applied to say (.) "I want to live here (.) this is  
6158 me." "Now you got to pass this test." Do you think that was probably the right  
6159 thing?

6160 Alina: No (.) I am probably harsh as a person with myself and with others. It is more of a  
6161 principle thing. If you care enough you would jump through hoops. It doesn't  
6162 really matter how hard it is if you really want to be a British citizen it shouldn't  
6163 just be put on the table for you just because you have done some things. I think  
6164 you should go through a process. I think it is the British way of doing things as  
6165 well in a specific order. It took us five years to get all the papers together. When  
6166 we applied for citizenship we had to prove everything that we have done here for  
6167 the past six years or seven years. We had a proper file like in offices full of  
6168 everything (.) just in case someone asked we kept everything. We knew that we  
6169 were working for our citizenship (.) so every single year we ordered them per year  
6170 (.) per month and so on just in case somebody was asking us.

6171 Henry: Very organised.

6172 Alina: Yes (.) probably it is more of an OCD thing.

6173 Henry: It benefits you though doesn't it?

6174 Alina: Yes (.) that is why I don't really understand people who say they don't really keep  
6175 things. It is kind of your own fault if you don't get the British citizenship. We  
6176 always knew what we were working for (.) so we applied for the yellow card and  
6177 then after a year for the blue card. Then he applied for the blue and then I get the  
6178 blue card. Then indefinite leave to remain and then British citizenship. We always  
6179 had the plan (.) so I think it is fair that they should make it hard for people to get it  
6180 because if you want it you are going to get it (.) but it shouldn't just be given away  
6181 I think.

6182 Henry: When you were saying earlier that even though you have got an affinity to both  
6183 Romania and Britain you wouldn't necessarily feel like you fit neatly into one or  
6184 the other.

6185 Alina: No (.) it is something to do with the age that I moved as well. I moved when I was  
6186 18 straight after I finished high school. I didn't really develop an understanding of  
6187 life in Romania as such.

6188 Henry: As an adult.

6189 Alina: Exactly (.) I never worked. If people asked me what the tax was in Romania I  
6190 wouldn't know or what a payslip looks like (.) I wouldn't know I only worked  
6191 summers cash in hand. Once I had finished my equivalent of A-levels I just left. I  
6192 can't really compare it to one another. My husband for example he always wanted  
6193 to leave the country even during communist times. He has been through a lot (.) he  
6194 tried to pass the borders a lot (.) he was in a (way)=

6195 Henry: He sounds like quite a character.

6196 Alina: Yes (.) he is.

6197 Henry: He sounds like he has done quite a lot of moving.

6198 Alina: He is a great person.

6199 Henry: Is he older than you?

6200 Alina: Ten years older.

6201 Henry: Hence why he was old enough to dis-appreciate the communist regime because we  
6202 would all have been growing up then wouldn't we.

6203 Alina: Yes (.) absolutely. He comes from a family of rebellious people in a way should I  
6204 say.

6205 Henry: Colourful.

6206 Alina: Yes (.) he ran from the country. He lived under a bridge in Budapest in Hungary  
6207 for a year before he was discovered. Then he went to live in Germany and then in  
6208 Hungary again to study at university. He got a scholarship there and then he gave  
6209 it up and went back to Romania and then to England and so on. He always wanted  
6210 to leave the country. I think his influence rubbed on me because I never wanted to  
6211 live in England (.) but because he wanted to live in England so much we had to  
6212 come to an agreement in a way. I think if it wasn't for him I would still be living in  
6213 Romania (.) which is kind of weird because everybody I know is coming not  
6214 necessarily to England but are leaving the country. That is so much more difficult  
6215 for them now because they are 27 and to have to go give up everything that you  
6216 worked for in Romania (.) experience (.) work and so on and just start again I  
6217 [think that is]

6218 Henry: [Recognition] isn't it. Everything they have worked towards that  
6219 is recognised in the place they are in having to (.) Your roots get deeper don't  
6220 they?

6221 Alina: Yes (.) so that is why people ask me (.) "Wasn't it difficult when you leave the  
6222 country at 18?" I think that is the easiest decision that I could make because you  
6223 don't really have anything to give up other than family. When you are 18 you  
6224 don't really care abo[ut that]

6225 Henry: [I supp]ose from what you were saying you made the  
6226 decision to go at the time you did you had not developed those ties that would be  
6227 difficult for you to do if you went now.

6228 Alina: Yes (.) a year after I lived in England when I went back to Romania to study at  
6229 university it all felt foreign in a way. It only took me one year (.) but I think I did  
6230 develop a bit of Englishness somehow. It felt wrong whenever I had to deal with  
6231 corruption or being treated unfairly. I was kicked out of my dorm room because  
6232 someone else had paid for my place. At 12 o'clock at night I was in the middle of  
6233 nowhere with nowhere to stay. It probably wouldn't have bothered me before but  
6234 because I lived in a fair correct country in a way that is how I perceive England to  
6235 be. I know it has got problems (.) corruption and so on it is just at the personal  
6236 individual level it is not as bad. I have never had any problems with corruption  
6237 here (.) but in Romania every single time I go back or as I was in university it just  
6238 felt smothering somehow and frustrating (.) it is like talking to nobody basically.  
6239 That is a feeling of being powerless I guess.

6240 Henry: You were talking about a sense of Englishness and fair play I suppose (.)  
6241 something someone else has talked about before is how Romanians don't like  
6242 queuing.

6243 Alina: Yes (.) that is the first thing I learnt.

6244 Henry: I was just going to ask if that is something you can identify with? Obviously you  
6245 can (.) so fire away.

6246 Alina: It is quite funny when I used to work in London I used to work in the Royal Parks  
6247 in the coffee shops. Everybody was just queuing up (.) but they didn't really know  
6248 what they were queueing up for. They were just in the queue and when they ended  
6249 up being in front of me it was like (.) "Oh (.) so what do you sell?" "Why did you

6250 queue up if you didn't know what you were actually wanting?" "There are 10  
6251 people I might as well just join them."

6252 Henry: Like a magnet (.) "There is a queue it must be good."

6253 Alina: I know (.) that is a really funny thing a cultural difference with the queues. I think  
6254 that reflects a lot of a country's culture. If you go in airports you see the English  
6255 queues going on after the other. In Romanian queues you just see everybody (.)  
6256 There are no straight queues (.) if you see one person you just move after the next  
6257 person so it is just a mountain of people there is no order.

6258 Henry: People just trying to cut in front of each other.

6259 Alina: Exactly (.) you are just like half a metre before. I think that says a lot thought  
6260 about the country the queueing systems and the order that English people like (.)  
6261 British people (.) should I say British?

6262 Henry: Whichever one you like. They are both right in their own way English could be the  
6263 language and it could be whatever.

6264 Alina: True.

6265 Henry: It is interesting when you were saying about the queueing because in the dormitory  
6266 someone else had taken your place it is almost like they had cut the queue. You  
6267 had reserved it and then someone else has cut in front of you after you had paid.

6268 Alina: Yes and they lost my contract basically. It never existed.

6269 Henry: That is a very interesting instance where you would feel more aware that some  
6270 change has happened (.) some sort of shift in the way you are thinking. It takes that  
6271 violation because living in it you sort of just get used to it don't you.

6272 Alina: Yes (.) that is what everybody living in Romania says. I ask them (.) "How do you  
6273 live like that?" "I just get used to it." It is like every single time they are faced with  
6274 corruption and not having money to pay for doctors and so on. Lots of tragedies  
6275 happen as well. My mum keeps me up to date daily with what happens. Every  
6276 single time when something unfair happens it is frustrating because you are  
6277 thinking it has been 25 years since communism fell and nothing has changed or it  
6278 has changed for the worse. Sometimes you feel hopeless because you think if you  
6279 ever wanted to go back to Romania you wouldn't be able to survive the system. I  
6280 wouldn't know who to pay at what point to get what. If you don't know who to  
6281 pay obviously you are going to be at the bottom of the queue. Every time you have  
6282 to be prepared to know who to bribe basically. It is not as bad as it used to be (.)  
6283 but normal people still get confronted with exactly the same situations as before. I  
6284 don't know how to deal with that (.) I don't know how to bribe people. I don't  
6285 know who to bribe (.) I don't know how to do it without shaking.

6286 Henry: Do you want to?

6287 Alina: That is the thing.

6288 Henry: I suppose that is the other thing that you seemed to get that earlier that it was  
6289 annoying (.) it was quite an inconvenience and quite dangerous being kicked out at  
6290 midnight.

6291 Alina: Exactly (.) I wouldn't want my children to live in that kind of a system. I like  
6292 certain parts of the Romanian culture that I miss. I miss the simplicity of things (.)  
6293 of life and not having to wonder all the time about paying the mortgage and so on.



6294 It is kind of easier to live there. You don't have to worry about going on holiday  
6295 because you are kind of on holiday all the time.

6296 Henry: The weather sounds better.

6297 Alina: Yes (.) not in the winter time but it does.

6298 Henry: It seems like an obvious question (.) but if was to ask where home feels for you  
6299 how would you go about answering that?

6300 Alina: I would probably say Sheffield. I think there has been quite a bit shift in  
6301 perspective since we bought the house. Before that we always felt that we didn't  
6302 have a home somehow because we always rented houses and moved. We didn't  
6303 have our own stuff (.) our own objects or our own personal things. When we first  
6304 moved to Maidstone we only had a really small Renault Clio stuffed with stuff.  
6305 When we moved to Sheffield we had a big lorry full of stuff. It is just the fact that  
6306 you grow roots somewhere and the buying of the house which is the top priority  
6307 list of most Romanians that is their goal to buy a house (.) to have roots and to  
6308 have a family and so on. I think that changed what we call home when we bought  
6309 a house (.) so now I think it is Sheffield. Every time we go abroad or somewhere  
6310 else you do come home and you do feel like you are home. But then if you go to  
6311 my parents' home for example because we don't have a house or any property in  
6312 Romania you still consider your parents' house home (.) but it is not as it is here.  
6313 Everything that you know is here now. It has been four years since we bought the  
6314 house so I think Sheffield would be home.

6315 Henry: We have talked about so many different things (.) you know what we were saying  
6316 about the media and you were saying you are noticing a shift in how people are  
6317 asking question (.) they think you are Russian or things like that. I am wondering  
6318 perhaps if you have got any general views about the way that at least in the past  
6319 few months the migration debate makes you feel as a citizen living here? Of  
6320 course you have the dual nationality I suppose there must be quite a lot of things  
6321 that cross your mind when you put the telly on or you read the paper.

6322 Alina: Yes (.) obviously every time the word Romania comes up in papers you know that  
6323 it is going to be negative. I always wonder if they are going to say anything good  
6324 about Romania and they kind of never do. I was looking forward to someone  
6325 mentioning the result of the presidential campaign. It is a good result and it is in  
6326 the right direction (.) at least something positive and it never actually happens. In  
6327 sport or something (.) it is kind of like it is all bad (.) Romania is all bad and there  
6328 is nothing good to offer. It is like for example why does nobody say the Romanian  
6329 Olympics there are a lot especially in international mathematics (.) IT and so on?  
6330 Why doesn't anyone say anything good about Romania? There are lots of good  
6331 things. Why does (.) not Prince William his father (.) I have forgotten his name.  
6332 Prince Charles (.) he has a house in Romania (.) he has got property and he visits  
6333 all the time (.) how come that is never in the media? Now obviously there is a lot  
6334 more about Romania than there used to be because of the rise of UKIP (.) English  
6335 Defence League (.) the BNP and so on. One really upsetting thing especially for  
6336 me personally is when we got the UKIP flyers in the post treating us like criminals  
6337 in a way. I don't know if you have seen them there was a comparison between  
6338 Romanians and they were written in the way that (.) 'Watch out if you have got a  
6339 Romanian neighbour.' I kind of felt that my privacy has been invaded somehow.  
6340 Obviously our neighbours know us and they know that we are Romanians. I was  
6341 wondering (.) 'I wonder what is going through their heads (.) 'I should watch (.) I  
6342 should keep an eye on the Romanians next door.''' I felt a bit betrayed because we  
6343 try to be good citizens. We try to have an education here (.) to pay all the taxes (.)

6344 to volunteer (.) to have a good job and to give something back all the time. We  
6345 always say positive thing about Romania and ever since we got here we try to  
6346 integrate and to have good relationships with everyone that we meet. We help our  
6347 neighbours to take the bins out for them and so on. Then all of a sudden it has kind  
6348 of turned against us somehow. You kind of take it personally to be fair. I think it is  
6349 different because we have been here for eight or nine years and we have seen a  
6350 difference in perspective from British people of Romanians. Like I said before  
6351 nobody really knew anything about Romanian and I think it was a better position.

6352 Henry: Didn't know good or bad.

6353 Alina: Exactly (.) it is not the bad advertising is advertising or whatever they call it. I  
6354 think if they don't have anything good to say they might as well not say anything.  
6355 I always felt the English had something against Romania from a historical point of  
6356 view. The same with the presentation of the orphan situation back in communist  
6357 times I think it was mostly England that had a problem with it. I think they always  
6358 (.) I am using the us and them situation. It is more from the media point of view (.)  
6359 but as a society they always had something against Romanians in a way. I think it  
6360 has been worse now with the anti-immigration campaigns and so on.

6361 Henry: It is a difficult question and I am not going to pretend that I know the answer by  
6362 asking it. What sort of things do you think could be motivating that sort of  
6363 campaign against Romania and against Romanian citizens coming to live here?

6364 Alina: Recently I think from a political point of view everybody wants to win the anti-  
6365 immigration campaign for the people. If you find a scapegoat for all of it I think it  
6366 is a winning situation for them. A couple of days ago when they were saying  
6367 immigrants had blocked the M25 or whatever because there are so many  
6368 immigrants in the country obviously we blocked everything. It is just trying to find  
6369 a scapegoat for the entire economic situation and trying not to draw attention on  
6370 their problems and the political problems. If you solve immigration then that is it.  
6371 Every time there is a talk about immigration there is always a Romanian person. I  
6372 don't know if you watch 'Dispatches' there was a documentary about immigrants  
6373 and out of five people three were Romanian immigrants and the other ones I think  
6374 one was French and one was Italian. Obviously I am subjective because whenever  
6375 I turn on the TV and there is something about immigration I probably tune into the  
6376 Romanian point of view. It does make you wonder. I think it was about benefits at  
6377 the time (.) did you really have to show three families of Romanians? With the  
6378 pick-pocketing documentary they were showing most of them were Romanians. I  
6379 am sure that is not the realistic point of view. I am sure there is not such a high  
6380 number of Romania pick-pockets in England so why do they just focus on the bad  
6381 things somehow? I don't think that happened before. Since 2005 we never saw that  
6382 much of Romania in the media. I know now it is just the political context and the  
6383 economic context that is actually pulling it to the surface. But like I said if in all  
6384 statistics we are put together with Bulgarians how come in the media we are kind  
6385 singled out somehow?

6386 Henry: It seems to be like a combination of all the economic situation and bad timing that  
6387 it could be anyone (.) but it just happens to be Romania.

6388 Alina: Yes and nobody actually apologised. I remember on 1<sup>st</sup> January when they were  
6389 expecting a million Romanians to come flying=

6390 Henry: =Was it Victor Spirescu? He was the only Romanian they found who actually  
6391 wasn't already living here. That was something that some people were making fun  
6392 of they are already here (.) what is the problem? You didn't even realise they were  
6393 here that is how much of a problem they were. ((laughter))

6394 Alina: Nobody said anything about that.

6395 Henry: No (.) that is a common thing isn't it that they don't often apologise if they get it  
6396 wrong. "Sorry for the six years of nastiness we will close the paper now." As if.

6397 Alina: I think it is frustrating that nobody is taking our side. Our ambassador he never  
6398 says anything (.) why doesn't he say anything? He should protect our reputation  
6399 somehow. The cultural institute in London doesn't really do anything. It should be  
6400 there for the diaspora so it should kind of protect our interests. I never needed  
6401 them and they only organise high end events. I don't know if you have ever tried  
6402 to contact the Romanian consulate if you do they are only going give you access to  
6403 high level people (.) parliamentarians or diplomates and so on. They don't really  
6404 keep in touch or have any kind of information about the Romanians that live there.  
6405 That is why nobody goes to them. I think that is their purpose to bring together all  
6406 Romanians in the diaspora.

6407 Henry: That is what the name implies rather than all the high flyers. It seems to be a  
6408 problem with priorities then really. The priority is not on the everyday experience  
6409 of anyone who falls under the Romanian (category) (.) but rather who is worth  
6410 protecting=

6411 Alina: =Yes (.) something like that.

6412 Henry: It is quite frustrating picture you paint really.

6413 Alina: And I am a positive person.

6414 Henry: This is the thing because it is undoubtedly negative. I suppose related to this is a  
6415 question. You were talking earlier about citizenship being something that you felt  
6416 should earned. With all this recent press it is all really about this notion that the  
6417 free movement of the people is now becoming broader and broader. You have got  
6418 such a long perspective of this because you would have seen the blue and yellow  
6419 cards and you have seen the different phases. Do you think the movement of  
6420 people is something that should be free? Obviously you have had different  
6421 experiences of this. Do you think it is something that should be controlled (.) you  
6422 should apply for things and you should be able to be more restricted?

6423 Alina: I think it needs to be controlled definitely. Probably because like I said before you  
6424 couldn't actually see (.) I don't know who to explain it. There was a bit of sieve so  
6425 not everybody could come to England (.) not all kinds of people without actually  
6426 deserving to be here (.) so all of those people used to go to Hungary or Italy. Once  
6427 the restrictions were raised everybody came with no limit on what kind of  
6428 qualification they should have or what kind of experience they should have. That  
6429 is not just for Romanians I think it is in general. I think immigration should be  
6430 controlled in every country not just in England (.) America or so on. I think every  
6431 country should protect their own interests before thinking about the interests of  
6432 other countries. I know obviously the European Union and so you have to adhere  
6433 to that policy. I don't think that is in the best interests of England. Before I used to  
6434 feel proud to be in England because I knew that not everybody else could get to  
6435 England. I had to go through a visa process (.) I had a two hour interview and I  
6436 travelled to [Bucharest]

6437 Henry: [You earne]d it essentially.

6438 Alina: Exactly (.) that is why I keep thinking about the same situation. I think only certain  
6439 people who work hard for it. Not necessarily from an education point of view  
6440 because obviously you can come here as a builder but you should have a bit more  
6441 experience. You should bring something to the table (.) it shouldn't be just you and

6442 another 2 (.)000 (.)000 people who know how to do exactly the same thing. It has  
6443 to be a separation between who gets to come here and who doesn't. If not you just  
6444 get all kinds of people from everywhere so you don't need so many researchers or  
6445 so many doctors (.) obviously you need doctors. I think it should be on a skills  
6446 system somehow like it is from outside the European Union. Although that has its  
6447 own problems I still think it should be controlled. I always thought that (.) it is not  
6448 just because I am here so screw everybody else I don't care.

6449 Henry: Of course (.) but that was how you got here so it is not like you are applying a  
6450 different lens that you got here however you like and then everyone else should be  
6451 controlled. You actually did experience that yourself (.) so it is based on your  
6452 experience.

6453 Alina: I kind of feel after we came and after the restrictions were lifted or part of the  
6454 restrictions were lifted lots of my friends came here. I don't think it is fair that I  
6455 had to go through a lot and they didn't. It is a selfish point of view (.) but I don't  
6456 think it is fair because they didn't have to work for anything.

6457 Henry: There is a logic to what you are saying that it should be based on some sort of  
6458 criteria.

6459 Alina: Yes (.) I know a lot of people and some of them are my family unfortunately but  
6460 they came here and they shouldn't be here in the first place. They don't know how  
6461 to do anything. They should have a job and a skillset doing something and not just  
6462 be here and that is it. It shouldn't be enough to just to be here.

6463 Henry: Feel free to come back and see how you think about this. It seems to be a sense of  
6464 you agree with some of the criticisms when it comes to not just Romanian  
6465 migration but the broader migration issues that are debated. You can identify with  
6466 the sense of the control (.) but there is another sense that it is quite cutting  
6467 sometimes the way it is talked about and it descends into something.

6468 Alina: Yes (.) it because what is fair is fair. Basically I understand the idea in the media  
6469 that immigration has to be controlled that is fair enough (.) but why does only  
6470 immigration from Romania have to be controlled why not everything else? They  
6471 keep saying that European Union immigration needs to be controlled but nobody  
6472 says about German immigration do they? Do they ever present a case of a German  
6473 person coming here? Did someone wait for the Germans in the airport to see how  
6474 many people came through? It is all of these situations (.) it is not fair that we are  
6475 being singled out somehow. I think that is the only thing I have problems with or  
6476 the fact that we are being portrayed as criminals. What has that got to do with the  
6477 immigration system in a way? If you are going to have a normal debate you should  
6478 look at all of the countries involved and not just (.) It is the same with the limited  
6479 restrictions for Romania and Bulgaria (.) why were we the only countries that we  
6480 got partial restricts? Why didn't Poland and Germany and so on (.) why didn't  
6481 they have the need to apply for a yellow card and a blue card why was it just us? I  
6482 feel that we have always had to work a bit harder to be at the same level with the  
6483 rest of the countries from the European Union as if we are like a second class  
6484 country somehow. It is like the European Union and Romania and Bulgaria  
6485 somehow. We are A2 countries (.) we are not A8 countries it is like we are in a  
6486 separate group somehow there. The media has a way of whenever they talk about  
6487 migration they give examples of the newer countries just because we are a poorer  
6488 country. They came to Romania to film the gypsy palaces and that doesn't say  
6489 anything about Romania it is just a small minority in a small village. Obviously  
6490 that is a gypsy village it is not Romanian villages everywhere. Why didn't they  
6491 make a com[parison between]

6492 Henry: [When Nigel Fara]ge came to visit and he had his  
6493 little tour. That is precisely the sort of thing when they were following him round  
6494 that he went to see this tiny minute little village that no one has ever heard of.  
6495 Probably most Romanians will never have heard of it.

6496 Alina: To be fair the one good thing that we had in the English media was the ‘Top Gear’  
6497 documentary when they filmed it in Romania. It actually said that we have the best  
6498 road in the world.

6499 Henry: Wow (.) for ‘Top Gear’ that is a real compliment English roads don’t compare to  
6500 anywhere let alone=

6501 Alina: =When they went to the seaside I think they had Lamborghinis or something and  
6502 they said (.) “I hope nobody is going to steal them.” Then there was a row of all  
6503 the very rare cars in Romania. Obviously there are very rich people in Romania.  
6504 Most people invest in cars and luxury products (.) so there is a big gap between the  
6505 poor and the rich. They were surprised there are rich people in Romania. Not that  
6506 that has increased our value in the eyes of the English but then it portrayed a  
6507 different kind of Romania and not just poor and uneducated (.) which is not fair to  
6508 do that.

6509 Henry: So it is about a sense of balance that there is more than meets the eye.

6510 Alina: Yes (.) obviously they are only looking at what is in the media’s interest. If you  
6511 want to present something you are going to go looking for that something. You are  
6512 not going to look at the whole picture and then give a balanced view because that  
6513 is too professional isn’t it. I do agree with a control on immigration.

6514 Henry: How do you feel like your movement not just from Romania to the UK but within  
6515 the UK (.) how do you think that has influenced or changed the way that you see  
6516 yourself? Obviously it has been quite a long time that you have been moving  
6517 around. Feel free to just focus on one particular move if it felt pertinent (.)  
6518 obviously you spoke about getting the house in Sheffield that was quite (.) How  
6519 has it influenced how you see yourself?

6520 Alina: I am not really sure. I don’t think the moves actually influenced me as such outside  
6521 the buying of the house in Sheffield and going to university. I don’t know (.) I  
6522 think certain moments in time that influenced me. Obviously I went to university  
6523 (.) we got married (.) we bought the house (.) we changed our lifestyle completely  
6524 and we made new friends. Not that we necessarily gave up our old friends.

6525 Henry: Yes (.) you were saying you moved out of London to get away from the Romanian  
6526 community that was the phrase you used wasn’t it?

6527 Alina: Yes (.) we always felt that we are not Romanians in way so that is why we got  
6528 away from the partying and the Romanian lifestyle like having to buy presents for  
6529 everybody for their birthdays (.) for baptisms and weddings. They are really  
6530 expensive as well so you have to baptise everybody and everybody is relatives  
6531 with everybody. I don’t even know what that is about.

6532 Henry: Is it a bit too intense?

6533 Alina: A lot. Just keeping a kid awake until 2:00am when he is one you have to cut their  
6534 first bit of hair and then stick it with wax on two gold coins and it needs to be holy  
6535 in the church I don’t know where. I think that is a lot and it is a lot of pressure to  
6536 keep up with all the traditions because if you are here you have to keep all the  
6537 traditions. I think that is a bit too much. There is a lot of tradition that is  
6538 inconvenient in a way. The music (.) we don’t like the Romanian music. It is like

6539 Romanian gypsy music which we never liked and the fact that they all invest in  
6540 cars and luxury products and we always wanted a house that was the priority.  
6541 Obviously they want that too (.) but first they have to have the newest BMW and  
6542 the new Audi. That is why we wanted to get away from that place. I think that  
6543 changed us as well. That changed me because I always knew what I didn't want to  
6544 become. I didn't want to be that kind of Romanian. I wanted to be a more educated  
6545 Romanian with a good job and social status in a way. I know that might sound  
6546 quite superficial (.) but if you want to integrate in a certain type of society you  
6547 want to be at the same level. Like now we live in Parson Cross which is a working  
6548 class (.) It sounds like it is a negative thing (.) for example on our street most  
6549 people don't work we are the only ones that wake up at six o'clock in the morning  
6550 and go to work. People kind of make fun (.) sometimes they make fun (.) "Why  
6551 are you waking up in the morning? Oh you go to work." It is unusual. That is why  
6552 we want to=

6553 Henry: =“Why don't you just claim benefits?” That type of thing.

6554 Alina: Yes (.) exactly. That is why we want to put some money aside to live in a better  
6555 area should I say. I think social status is important for us. I think throughout our  
6556 journey in Maidstone and so on we found ourselves a bit more. We discovered  
6557 who want to be and the group of friends that we want to have as well. I think kind  
6558 of shapes who you are continuously.

6559 Henry: I understand it is quite a difficult question to answer. It sounds like each little  
6560 move has prompted little moments for you where you think (.) “We have done that  
6561 now let's think about this.” I quite like when you said the story with your  
6562 citizenship that you were adding little bits of paperwork each time and it was  
6563 accumulative.

6564 Alina: Yes (.) that felt like we were getting closer to something. That is what we wanted  
6565 to do. I brought my brother over and his three wife three years ago and we said we  
6566 didn't want them to go through the same processes of self-learning everything (.)  
6567 all the immigration rules (.) the system (.) all the little gaps and everything they  
6568 need to do. We talked them through everything so in two years which was less  
6569 than it took us they had everything they needed. They bought a house as well and  
6570 they have great jobs and so on. I think it took us longer because we never had any  
6571 help from anyone and we never asked for help from anyone. We basically self-  
6572 taught everything.

6573 Henry: It is really interesting. Earlier you were saying about your husband and how he  
6574 was a bit of a livewire and he got up to quite a lot.

6575 Alina: Yes.

6576 Henry: You were saying that he influenced your choice to move here. Seeing as you are  
6577 married and you have got a mortgage it sounds a little bit like you have influenced  
6578 him like he has settled down a bit. Even though you have moved where you didn't  
6579 think you would.

6580 Alina: Yes (.) I think I changed him a lot. No one actually he was ever going to get  
6581 married.

6582 Henry: Really (.) so he has surprised everyone then.

6583 Alina: Yes (.) I think so. Probably because my parents didn't really agree with the  
6584 marriage in the first place because he was never settled down. He was always  
6585 moving around and never had a stable job and he was 10 years older than me. He  
6586 didn't come from a good family because there is some alcoholism problems there.

6587 It was always a different relationship even the way that we met and so on. Three  
6588 days after he was deported then we got together and then didn't.

6589 Henry: I can't imagine that it was an easy first conversation to have with your parents and  
6590 that this is ((laughter)) nope. ((laughter))=

6591 Alina: =Well they kind of did a background check on him and then it turned out okay.

6592 Henry: I suppose this is where you were saying earlier you were interested in Romanian  
6593 tradition and culture. Then later on you were saying it was quite intense living in  
6594 London and all the baptisms and keeping up. This is another instance where  
6595 perhaps the tradition side was quite strong for you because your family were quite  
6596 against the idea of that relationship. I suppose the tradition thing would come  
6597 through there because he is not from a good family or because he is not settled in  
6598 some way. They were using some sort of criteria to say (.) "This guy isn't good  
6599 enough for you."

6600 Alina: Yes (.) because obviously I was 18 at the time so they thought I don't know  
6601 anything basically (.) "Shut up and dump him." Because I had that freedom I could  
6602 choose whatever I wanted because I wasn't in Romania. I wasn't restricted to  
6603 those traditions and to those rules. To be fair I have to say my father always  
6604 travelled so every year he used to travel on a different continent with work. Every  
6605 time he used to tell us (.) "Never stay in Romania you have to live abroad. You  
6606 have to stay away from Romania." I think he found my husband on the same level  
6607 because my husband always wanted to live abroad and always wanted to move.  
6608 That is why my father wasn't really against him because he knew that he was  
6609 going to convince me somehow to live abroad.

6610 Henry: Of course he was trying to get out of Romania in the '80s like you were saying so  
6611 they have that in common don't they.

6612 Alina: Yes (.) exactly. I think that made it easier for them to accept that I will marry him  
6613 regardless of what they think anyway. They always gave me a lot of freedom  
6614 which was quite unusual for my generation. Everybody had to stay at home and go  
6615 to university supported by the family. The family always sent the packages every  
6616 week with food and so on (.) which I never actually agreed with. I wanted to have  
6617 independence and I didn't think Romania was giving me enough independence to  
6618 go and do whatever I wanted probably financially (.) but also from the cultural  
6619 point of view because I was the only one who left the country from everybody that  
6620 I knew at the time. People were against it (.) they were always blaming my mother  
6621 (.) "How can you leave your 18 year old daughter to go and live on her own in a  
6622 different country?" She was always marginalised for that because she allowed me  
6623 to go.

6624 Henry: There is quite a different interplay of things going on there. It sounds like it was  
6625 more your mum who was disapproving of your husband if your dad was quite  
6626 alright I am guessing. Then also they are quite keen on giving you the freedom  
6627 even though they have got the tradition on that side when it comes to who you  
6628 choose as a partner as far as you living your life. It sounds like quite a lot of  
6629 different stuff going on there.

6630 Alina: You have got a teenage daughter you probably have a lot of things to think about.  
6631 You don't want to give her too much freedom (.) but once they gave me the  
6632 freedom they couldn't really take it back now.

6633 Henry: That is a good point because otherwise you would just never see them again  
6634 because they can't stop you.

6635 Alina: Yes (.) that is what would have happened probably.

6636 Henry: Have you got any siblings by the way?

6637 Alina: No (.) just an older brother two years older.

6638 Henry: So you were the baby of the family in a sense.

6639 Alina: Yes (.) only by age. Everybody thinks I am the eldest sister because I always  
6640 protected him somehow and I brought him to England and I guided him. I was an  
6641 accountant as well so I used to do all the tax returns of everybody of all the  
6642 Romanians as well. I try to help everybody as much as possible.

6643 Henry: So despite that age thing you still have a mothering thing to look after him. When I  
6644 was saying about the baby I suppose in the sense of this concept of being the  
6645 youngest of the children and a girl as well. Would that be a thing? I don't know (.)  
6646 some parents are funny about their kids doing things aren't they.

6647 Alina: I think I was always the mature one everywhere so that is probably why I married  
6648 a man 10 years older than me. I was always too mature for my age everybody kept  
6649 me telling me that. I suffered from a bit of a depression episode before I decided to  
6650 come to England because I didn't think my future was good enough at that time.  
6651 Basically everybody else at the college came from rich families. It was quite a  
6652 good college and they had their lives planned out basically. My only choice for  
6653 what I wanted to do was to move abroad.

6654 Henry: I suppose when that is the only comparison you have got naturally it doesn't feel  
6655 like you match up.

6656 Alina: Yes (.) exactly. Now to be fair looking back I think everybody is kind of at the  
6657 same level. I managed to rise to the expectation that I had for myself. I don't think  
6658 I could have forgiven myself if I didn't graduate from university. It was more of a  
6659 personal decision and I think my husband knew that as well. If I never graduated  
6660 from university it would have always been his fault because I came here for him (.)  
6661 so if I didn't fulfil my dream it would have been all his fault. That was never  
6662 mentioned but he probably knew that.

6663 Henry: At this point in time it seems like your roots are really starting to come down into  
6664 the ground. Is there anything in the near future that you would aspire towards for  
6665 the next step? You were saying about moving to a better area (.) would that still be  
6666 in Sheffield do you think?

6667 Alina: Yes (.) in Sheffield. But then we do have a back-up plan in case things do get too  
6668 difficult with the migrant immigration problem. I know what happened in Italy and  
6669 Spain where lots of Romanian communities were attacked after a long strip of  
6670 negative media influence. They were attacked and a boy was killed in Italy  
6671 because like I said there is a huge Romanian community in Italy especially in  
6672 Torino (.) which is the north of the country. They were getting so many and people  
6673 were getting so annoyed with their presence they started becoming violent towards  
6674 them and lots of Romanians returned to Romania because of it. We always say in  
6675 case something like that happens here we wouldn't want to live in a country that  
6676 doesn't want us. Even if we built our future and everything here it is never  
6677 excluded that we can move somewhere else. Last year we went to America to visit  
6678 and ((name removed)) (.) my husband (.) has some family there. We don't want to  
6679 live in America (.) but next year we are going to Canada because it was always our  
6680 back-up plan. It is kind of similar to England but it is not America because we  
6681 don't like America.



6682 Henry: Yes (.) there is Commonwealth Anglosphere.

6683 Alina: Exactly (.) so we want to check it out next year to see if we have got a back-up  
6684 plan because we have got family there as well.

6685 Henry: So it is choosing places which have some relation to where you are now with  
6686 family and connections but then=

6687 Alina: =Yes (.) I think the only reason we aren't moving to Canada now is because it is so  
6688 far away from Romania. My parents are still alive and his parents are still alive so  
6689 you always have to go back in a way. We try to keep it as rare as possible only to  
6690 the minimum.

6691 Henry: It does sound like you have got a lot diplomatic decisions to make (.) you can do  
6692 certain things but it has got to be reasonable.

6693 Alina: It was the same with our wedding. We did the civil ceremony here but we had to  
6694 do the religious part in Romania with 300 people and all the traditions. We had to  
6695 learn a whole book of what you have to do and what you aren't allowed to do.  
6696 Trying to=

6697 Henry: =It sounds like you were doing that more for your family.

6698 Alina: Yes and in a way for me so I wouldn't lose touch with where I am from. Talking  
6699 about the acculturation process you don't really want to be assimilated in the  
6700 culture without remembering where you are from. If we ever have kids I would  
6701 want them to speak Romanian (.) know a bit about Romania and go to Romania to  
6702 visit but just not live there I guess.

6703 Henry: Is that something you have plans for?

6704 Alina: No (.) not really.

6705 Henry: You prefer the career path.

6706 Alina: I always say that we are settled and we have a house and so on but there are so  
6707 many things we didn't get to do because we focused so much on getting the  
6708 citizenship it kind of affected our lives. I could never get the job I wanted I had to  
6709 wait three years until I got the blue card. It kind of delayed the progress that I  
6710 could have made in those years somehow so I had a limited amount of options in  
6711 terms of a job that I could do. I always think if it was freedom of movement from  
6712 the beginning I could have progressed quicker. It is kind of like lost time in a way  
6713 just because of the immigration status.

6714 Henry: Like you were saying and linking it to where you think it should be controlled.  
6715 That is a disadvantage then for you having gone through all that rigmarole and  
6716 then it changed anyway. Then of course you can say you went through that and  
6717 you have earned your place.

6718 Alina: Exactly (.) that is where I am coming from with the earned aspect.

6719 Henry: It is really powerful because you have given your time (.) your energy (.) your  
6720 money and everything else.

6721 Alina: Don't get me wrong it was such a fun time. It is fun to be 19 and in England. It  
6722 was such a huge step up to be able to earn your own money (.) make a living (.)  
6723 save money (.) have holidays and invest in stuff. It was like you could have  
6724 everything so you didn't really have an excuse not to make the best of it and not to  
6725 invest in you as well. That is why I don't really understand people who come here

6726 and they have everything on their plate given to them basically. They could have  
6727 anything and they still don't do anything with their lives. I think if you have got  
6728 that opportunity it is kind of stupid not take it.

6729 Henry: There is always quite a personal thing there. Pardon me for always bringing the  
6730 politics into it. Recently there is all this talk about welfare and about how you  
6731 shouldn't be able to claim. I think the Conservatives are saying four or five years  
6732 their proposal is. Is that something that rings quite true with you from what you are  
6733 saying about earning and you shouldn't just get everything handed to you=

6734 Alina: =To be honest I don't agree with benefits in the first place. I don't agree they  
6735 should just be focused on immigrants I think they should be focused on everybody.  
6736 It is also not fair the thing with the four years because once you start working you  
6737 should be entitled to the same benefits that you are paying into somehow.  
6738 Basically if you are working you should get access to benefits. Obviously if you  
6739 are not working you should never get access to benefits I think.

6740 Henry: So it should be contribution based.

6741 Alina: Yes (.) exactly. If you are contributing then yes. I don't think it is fair that you  
6742 should have to contribute for four years. Then on your fourth year you are ill and  
6743 you can't work anymore you are just like=

6744 Henry: =Your three years are not worth anything.

6745 Alina: Exactly=

6746 Henry: It feels a bit cruel.

6747 Alina: Yes.

6748 Henry: To play devil's advocate what about those whether they were native people or  
6749 immigrants (.) what if they have not contributed? They are on the streets (.) maybe  
6750 they were working but not for long or whatever the situation is (.) would we see  
6751 them starve to death?

6752 Alina: No.

6753 Henry: That is a difficult thing isn't it?

6754 Alina: Yes (.) it is something was thinking about quite recently when we went to  
6755 America. That was a shock for me to see so many homeless people and then I  
6756 realised I am not a=

6757 Henry: =Land of the free.

6758 Alina: Exactly and it is not really is it? That is why then I kind of changed my opinion on  
6759 helping people for a while. I understand what you are saying if you have never  
6760 worked and you are ill and so on people need to be helped (.) but not indefinitely.  
6761 That is why the good thing about Romania I have to say one thing is the fact you  
6762 only get unemployment benefits for one year. After that year it doesn't really  
6763 matter what you do it is your own fault for not getting a job.

6764 Henry: Yes (.) it is a fair amount of time to get a job.

6765 Alina: I think it should be a mixture between America and England because I think  
6766 England is way too lenient with people (.) you kind of have to work harder than  
6767 that. If an immigrant could be here and not speak the language (.) not having  
6768 paperwork (.) not having anywhere to sleep and they manage to make a life for

6769 themselves. If you are English you have you got all the opportunities in the world.  
 6770 Obviously there is a difference of opportunity here as well with all the different  
 6771 class systems and so on (.) I am not arguing against that. It is just that you could do  
 6772 something here.

6773 Henry: Everyone has got challenges (.) but how do you make the best of those challenges?

6774 Alina: Exactly (.) there are so many opportunities here. You can't really say that you  
 6775 don't have an opportunity. Even if you come from a poor background or nobody  
 6776 went to university there has been so much talk about inequality and so on. I do  
 6777 agree with that but everybody could go to university. I understand it is £9000 but I  
 6778 would invest in me if I came from England and I didn't have any other barriers. If  
 6779 it is just the finance thing there are student loans and there are so many things that  
 6780 you could do. I think that is getting on a high horse somehow.

6781 Henry: Is that something that your teachers would have told you when you were at school  
 6782 about investing in your future? When you say that do you find yourself thinking (.)  
 6783 "So and so told me that."

6784 Alina: Yes (.) it was not just one person it was everybody. We were always bombarded  
 6785 with (.) "Learn as many languages as you can." We had a course that taught us a  
 6786 bit of every language. If you are found somewhere you have to know certain words  
 6787 in every language just in case. It was all based on education (.) education was the  
 6788 number one most important thing that you have to do. It could be subjective (.) I  
 6789 am not saying that every Romanian is educated because the literacy levels are so  
 6790 low in Romania especially in the countryside and so on. They would never be able  
 6791 to go to university (.) they would never be able to finish eight classes (.) eight  
 6792 grades. I think that is the real poverty (.) it is not the relative poverty that is  
 6793 England. In Romania there are families who are starving and they only send their  
 6794 kids to school just to get the free milk and cookie they are given for the poor  
 6795 countries. I think that is real poverty. We are always told because we are at high  
 6796 school or secondary school we have come so far so we have to go forward as much  
 6797 as possible. Everybody has to invest in their future and go to university=

6798 =[conversation with building staff 1:32:13 to 1:32:53]

6799 Henry: Sorry (.) to be fair we are at six o'clock.

6800 Alina: We have to go.

6801 Henry: Yes (.) I am going to turn these off. ((transcript ends))

*Transcript 7: Constanta*

- 6802 Henry: And they're both on no↑w. So (.) I would just like to start (.) if I ca:n (.) by  
6803 you just telling me a little bit about yourself. So (.) for example how old are  
6804 you↑? er w- wh (.) You said earlier that you obviously h'v come from work  
6805 (.) what job do you do (.) so some stuff like that=
- 6806 Constanta: =ah ri↑ght (1) so er: my name is Constanta. I am going to be:: er turning 40  
6807 in the next (.) well actually this mo↓nth. E:::r I work as a be- (.) Business  
6808 Partner for ((removed)). So it is kind of an analytical role basically. I live in  
6809 Sheffield. I have been in the UK for fo↑rteen years=
- 6810 Henry: =Fo[rteen] (.) wow quite a while then.
- 6811 Constanta: [Ye::s] and I lived in Leeds (.) within the last (1) sort of (.) seven years  
6812 I lived in Sheffield but before that I lived in Leeds.
- 6813 Henry: And you were in Leeds the who:le time from first arriving then?
- 6814 Constanta: Yeah=
- 6815 Henry: =So what was it- 2001?
- 6816 Constanta: Yes (.) 2001 (.) that is right (.) [yeah].
- 6817 Henry: [wow] So you have seen quite a lot of different  
6818 sort of pha↑:ses then whilst you have been here?=  
6819 Constanta: =Ye::s (.) yes. And I:: came to UK (.) I: (.) got married to a Selby lad  
6820 ((laughter)) e:rm that was in 2002 actually. I came with a fiancée visa↑
- 6821 Henry: oka:y
- 6822 Constanta: We met over the internet i- in um (.) it was Excite.com (.) I don't know if (.)  
6823 it is old days ((laughter)). It was a chat basically er=
- 6824 Henry: =Yea↑h. And probably quite ra:re back then [there w]asn't as much of  
6825 online stuff as there is no:w=
- 6826 Constanta: [it was] =Yeah (.) yeah it  
6827 was very rare. So over two years we had a long distance erm (.)  
6828 relationship. erm (.) and er yes after that I got a fiancée visa and I moved  
6829 here↑. [And] we got married after four months (.) that was 2002 when we  
6830 got married so.
- 6831 Henry: [mm] so if I could ju- if you don't mind me asking (.) you  
6832 met online (.) you were chatting for about four months and was that- no  
6833 sorry you weren't chatting for four months=
- 6834
- 6835 Constanta: =well (.) no (.) we were chatting for about (.) I think it probably must have  
6836 been a couple of months or so↓ (.) two or three months=
- 6837 Henry: =Yes (.) and you decided to come over to mee:t and sort of=

6838 Constanta: =Y[eah well he] he decided to come to Romania: but erm (.) he broke [his  
6839 le:g so he] couldn't travel. He bought the tickets (.) he was there for  
6840 Christmas (.) oh no it was in the summer that he was meant to come. So I  
6841 had to obviously because you could swap the tickets I came over to see him  
6842 (.) and we were seeing each other for two years (.) every four months for a  
6843 couple of weeks (.) so yes.

6844 Henry: [to meet up]  
6845 [oh ((laughter))] Wow.

6846 Constanta: So it is quite different from what actually happens now in terms of  
6847 immigration.

6848 Henry: Yes (.) exactly yes. Because you can about whenever you like now can't  
6849 you?

6850 Constanta: Yes.

6851 Henry: Could you tell me a little bit about your life before you came to the UK  
6852 then? So whereabouts in Romania are you from?

6853 Constanta: Right (.) I am from the South. It is a town in the South by the River Danube  
6854 and when I was 18 I moved away (.) I moved to Bucharest obviously Uni (.)  
6855 I went to Uni. And after I finished Uni I decided to stay in Bucharest with  
6856 just more social life.

6857 Henry: More going on I suppose isn't there than a little town (.) isn't there?

6858 Constanta: Definitely (.) yes. And for about 10 years I worked in Bucharest so yes (.)  
6859 well I mean do you want me to tell you what kind of jobs I have done or?

6860 Henry: Yes (.) sure.

6861 Constanta: Just admin roles. I have worked for a marketing company (.) I worked in an  
6862 advertising company as well. So just stuff (.) reports (.) that kind of stuff.  
6863 So I was familiar with Excel and Word. So I didn't really pursue the career  
6864 in sociology (.) I didn't become a sociologist or anything like that. So (.)  
6865 yes=

6866 Henry: =It is more like what you are doing now (.) you say you are an open access  
6867 course in statistics (.) you are formalising now what you know from all of  
6868 your jobs then in a way.

6869 Constanta: Yes (.) I think it is a nice complement to sociology and it is (.) Well I kind  
6870 of want to (.) I would like to be a statistician or a data scientist (.) that kind  
6871 of role. So (.) I have decided this in the last year but just obviously I have  
6872 had quite a lot of jobs. And I have kind of worked out what I want (.) it is a  
6873 bit late but it doesn't matter does it really?

6874 Henry: No (.) no you can change at any point. That is the great thing about it all (.)  
6875 you can sort of decide it is not for you or you know you want to  
6876 breakthrough a glass ceiling that you find with some jobs and you think (.)  
6877 "Well that will help me get to where I want to be" and yes. Okay then.

6878 So (.) some of my questions revolve around asking you about what led you  
6879 to first come (.) but you have sort of talked about this with your  
6880 relationship in a way.

6881 Constanta: Well yes (.) I did. It was the relationship with Steve but I just (.) My  
6882 relationship with him was different from (.) I don't want to put people in  
6883 categories but I didn't have very long relationship in Romania (.) basically.  
6884 And I didn't have a good relationship with my parents either. My mother is  
6885 an alcoholic and well kind of problems in the family (.) so.

6886 To be honest it was quite easy for me to move because (.) of course I had  
6887 my friends but there was nothing really to keep me.

6888 Henry: There was no root in a sense?

6889 Constanta: Yes (.) yes. So it was easy but my relationship with Steve was much (.) it  
6890 was (.) I don't know. I don't know how to explain this (.) very (.) it is  
6891 different from the relationship that I had before. So I fell in love with him  
6892 so basically.

6893 Henry: So I suppose it was almost like hope (.) you know it was just nice and new  
6894 and something that you might not have had previously?

6895 Constanta: Yes (.) I knew there was a risk obviously because you don't live with that  
6896 person (.) you don't really know (.) but I said to myself (.) you know (.)  
6897 "You can always go back". It is not like (.) I can always go back and you  
6898 know there was very little for me to lose in changing circumstances (.) and  
6899 it was hard but there was very little for me to lose really. I had a job and not  
6900 a lot of sort of luggage with me so I didn't have any furniture or anything  
6901 like that (.) do you see what I am saying?

6902 Henry: Yes (.) so it was just what you had on your back sort of thing?

6903 Constanta: Yes. I don't know if you know a lot about Romania but usually unless you  
6904 are a very (.) very bright person and you have a bit of luck and you get a  
6905 good job (.) and then you can get into the house market etc. But usually  
6906 you have to know the right people to get the right jobs kind of thing.

6907 Henry: That is something now I have come to learn=

6908 Constanta: =I don't know if anybody talked about it (.) but it is quite important that  
6909 your parents support you (.) to help you start a life (.) build a life. It is very  
6910 (.) very important that you have that support from your parents and I didn't  
6911 have it. And also (.) it is important that you know the right people or they  
6912 (.) Well this is my personal experience so (.) So yes.

6913 Henry: It is really interesting stuff. I mean it is (.) Like (.) obviously from what  
6914 you are saying family is really important as a sort of a cultural thing. So the  
6915 idea of not having that (.) you know you needed to make up for it in  
6916 different ways haven't you? I suppose that was in a sense then what drew  
6917 you to stay in Bucharest then (.) after Uni? So much going on and?=  
6918

6919 Constanta: =Yes because it (.) The thing is my town is like an industrial town and it  
6920 was built around a big chemical factory which was closing down. So (.) yes  
6921 (.) it is quite hard.

6922 Henry: A lot of the jobs were gone then?

6923 Constanta: Yes (.) it is quite hard to find jobs. Like for example my cousin (.) he went  
6924 back after Uni (.) he went back to his parents but his parents got him a job.  
6925 So it was kind of guaranteed (.) come back because there is a job here. And  
6926 my father said to me (.) “Come back”. Because I think parents feel like (.)  
6927 “Oh I’m going to grow old (.) I need somebody to look after me”. In  
6928 Romania most people are poor (.) I mean it depends how you define poor  
6929 but they kind of rely on their families to look after them. So (.) obviously he  
6930 wanted me to come back but I had a brother. My brother died a few years  
6931 ago but my brother (.) well he was like very close to my dad so. I was quite  
6932 selfish to be honest and I was like (.) “Well I’m going to live wherever I’m  
6933 happy”.

6934 Henry: Live your life (.) yes.

6935 Constanta: Not just go back and tried to find (.) I probably would have found like a  
6936 teacher’s job or something but I didn’t really want to (.) so. So maybe I do  
6937 like to travel (.) I don’t know.

6938 Henry: Well have you travelled around other parts of Europe as well or is it just  
6939 sort of a relationship with England?

6940 Constanta: Before (.) no. I didn’t travel anywhere before coming to England. It was the  
6941 first time (.) I was 25 I think when I (.) 25 or 24 when I got on the pla[ne (.)  
6942 so]

6943 Henry: [And t]hat  
6944 must have been quite an experience because thinking about it (.) I mean  
6945 some of the other participants have been younger so it was a bit different I  
6946 think. But you would have experienced to some extent the change in  
6947 Romania (.) you know obviously ’89 and the revolution and whatever. So  
6948 that quite important for you as an experience to get on a plane and sort of  
6949 do it all for the first time?

6950 Constanta: Yes (.) yes it was. Yes (.) it was it was very different and I remember when  
6951 Steve and his parents waited for me at the airport in London and we stopped  
6952 for a cup of tea by the motorway (.) and I saw them putting milk in tea. I  
6953 was like (.) “What (.) no would you like a bit of a milk?” “Milk in tea”.  
6954 And I just had the black tea but then I didn’t like the taste so I said (.)  
6955 “Okay I’ll try with milk” and it was way better with milk so.

6956 Henry: You preferred it?

6957 Constanta: Yes.

6958 Henry: Okay.

6959 Constanta: But it was very strange (.) very strange to me.

6960 Henry: How did (.) if you don't mind (.) it is probably a bit of a weird question but  
6961 how did it taste different (.) what sort of? I have not tried Romanian tea  
6962 before you see or how you might have had it (.) so?

6963 Constanta: Well it is just sort of strong (.) not such strong taste I think with milk.

6964 Henry: So it is weaker?

6965 Constanta: And weakens it a little bit (.) it is (.) Yes (.) in that way.

6966 Henry: So that must have been really strange for you and you thought (.) "Oh  
6967 actually I don't"?=

6968 Constanta: =Yes (.) well everything to be honest (.) everything. We had the Christmas  
6969 Dinner and everything was (.) Obviously very (.) sort of from my point of  
6970 view where I am coming from it is very civilised and people are way more  
6971 polite than where in Romania. If I go back now I feel like they are very rude  
6972 without actually they are meaning to be rude (.) but they don't say (.)  
6973 "Thank you" like every opportunity they have to (.) you know that kind of  
6974 stuff. And obviously compared to Romania it is a rich country so you just  
6975 notice all of a sudden (.) wow. You have that (.) I just didn't grow up like  
6976 that so (.) yes.

6977 Henry: So it sounds like you had quite a few experiences where (.) I mean I don't  
6978 (.) Did you have any expectations when you first came (.) what the UK  
6979 would be like?

6980 Constanta: I didn't.

6981 Henry: No. So these were all quite important moments then when you sort of (.)  
6982 "Oh this is what a Christmas Dinner looks like"?

6983 Constanta: Oh yes (.) yes. Definitely (.) definitely (.) yes different (.) very (.) very  
6984 different. And just from my point of view it was very family orientated (.)  
6985 which kind of in Romania you do have because I grew up in a community  
6986 (.) in a sense of people know each other on the streets. Kids play on the  
6987 streets and they know their neighbours or if my parents are not at home then  
6988 my neighbours would look after me. So I did grow up like that (.) but it  
6989 was different. I don't know the father (.) they were playing games (.) that is  
6990 strange (.) we don't do that in Romania (.) you know you eat (.) parents get  
6991 drunk (.) kids play with each other and that is kind of it. But there is one  
6992 thing that obviously yes the relationship I have with the parents it is very  
6993 open and very sort of like close to their parents. I think it is probably the  
6994 generations are much closer than they are in Romania where they (.) If I  
6995 look now at the kids how they grow up in Romania the parents kind of let  
6996 them interact with kids. There is not so much interaction with (.) Well it  
6997 might be just my own experience but (.) So (.) yes so it was a massive  
6998 change (.) so.

6999 Henry: And what about the community (.) So you say you live in Sheffield (.)  
7000 what is the neighbourhood like where you live at the moment then in  
7001 comparison?



7002 Constanta: Well there is no real community. There would be through the church (.)  
7003 there is a little church there in a village where I live and I did go to church  
7004 for a couple of years. I am very good friends with our neighbours because  
7005 they go to church and it is quite nice when you go out in the village where  
7006 you actually say (.) "Hello" to each other. But I got busy with my studying  
7007 and I didn't get the chance to keep going (.) to continue the relationship.

7008 Henry: Is that Orthodox church?=  
7009 Constanta: =No (.) it is Methodist.  
7010 Henry: Methodist.  
7011 Constanta: Methodist (.) yes.  
7012 Henry: Because obviously Romania it is Orthodox in the main isn't it?  
7013 Constanta: Yes (.) it is different again. Because in Romania Orthodox Church it is very  
7014 traditional (.) it is almost like you are stuck in a thousand years ago. It is (.)  
7015 people don't interact that much they just go and kiss some pictures (.) then  
7016 they light a candle and that kind of stuff. While here (.) people talk and  
7017 debate and things (.) so it is different (.) so.

7018 Henry: So a lot of the things that would even be semi familiar are then like with the  
7019 church (.) going to church even then it is still different?

7020 Constanta: Yes.  
7021 Henry: Yes (.) it is quite strange for you in some ways then (.) having to get used to  
7022 the different ways that people do the same sort of thing (.) like going to  
7023 church?

7024 Constanta: Yes.  
7025 Henry: Yes (.) it is interesting stuff because it is (.) I suppose then it is (.) I mean  
7026 when you say you go back to Romania and you say it feels like they are  
7027 rude for example around the table (.) is that what you are finding with a lot  
7028 of different things? You almost find yourself thinking in like an English  
7029 way?

7030 Constanta: Yes (.) yes but I did make it (.) To be honest because I was (.) I didn't  
7031 relate to Romanians when I came here (.) I was (.) Just obviously my  
7032 husband British and his friends and I kind of (.) you know it was like  
7033 somebody thrown in the water (.) learn how to swim kind of thing and my  
7034 English wasn't very good. So I went to school (.) I did the GCSE just you  
7035 know especially when a job was turned down on me because my English  
7036 wasn't good enough. So I did an A level as well.

7037 Henry: Oh gosh (.) good for you (.) yes.  
7038 Constanta: Yes because I thought this is not (.) okay well it is fine (.) give me a time  
7039 and my English will be better. And so yes I did kind of adapt (.) I think  
7040 quite well and I- To be honest I love this country (.) I love people as well.  
7041 They are different from Romanians and they are much more reserved and  
7042 Romanians are more straightforward but then in the same time they are

7043 probably less reliable. I mean with English people you find that they don't  
 7044 sort of like jump to (.) "Oh yes I'll do everything for you (.) I'll help you"  
 7045 (.) like Romanians do. But then if they would promise to help you they will  
 7046 whilst Romanians you just don't know. But I am generalising here but they  
 7047 are more reserved and it takes a long time to actually build a relationship  
 7048 with somebody. But I think it is more mature that relationship generally  
 7049 speaking than in Romania. So yes I did meet some Romanians when I was  
 7050 in Leeds but just because we are Romanians doesn't necessarily mean that  
 7051 we get on. So (.) yes (.) I have adapted quite well. I love the sense of  
 7052 humour (.) I do and when my husband made me watch The League of  
 7053 Gentleman and I just couldn't get to my head why is it funny when a man  
 7054 wears a skirt (.) why is that funny? That kind of stuff. But then after I  
 7055 watched a few times you kind of get to understand it is funny and (.) So (.)  
 7056 yes (.) I love the people. I think they are great (.) the sense of humour (.)  
 7057 the culture. Obviously now learning maths and learning how many  
 7058 statisticians were born here and mathematicians. And how many (.) the  
 7059 contribution to the culture in the world (.) it just (.) I have a great  
 7060 admiration (.) so.

7061 Henry: And something I suppose that must have been quite helpful (.) you know  
 7062 when you were saying you went back to school and learnt some more  
 7063 English. It must have been quite an advantage having a partner who spoke  
 7064 fluent English even though I don't (.) Does he speak another language?  
 7065 Just speak English?

7066 Constanta: No.

7067 Henry: Just speak English (.) yes. So he is probably like a lot of English people (.)  
 7068 only speak English. But it must have been a good advantage for you to be  
 7069 able to (.) just to hear him speak all the time.

7070 Constanta: And obviously that is the reason why I adapted so well because you learnt  
 7071 so much about the culture (.) you know when they start talking about  
 7072 programmes that I haven't seen (.) I don't know. When they explain it (.)  
 7073 you know you have learnt so much and you kind of (.) Well I am not  
 7074 saying that it feels like it is my country (.) it still feels like it is (.)  
 7075 Obviously I wasn't born here but you feel like a citizen of this country. I  
 7076 feel like I have been adopted really (.) you see what I am saying?

7077 Henry: Yes (.) it is an interesting point. So (.) if someone were to say (.) If  
 7078 someone was to ask you if you were (.) Would you say that you were  
 7079 Romanian living=

7080 Constanta: =Yes.

7081 Henry: But you are living in the UK. So you wouldn't say you were British then or  
 7082 English (.) anything like that?

7083 Constanta: No.

7084 Henry: You wouldn't go as far to say that?

7085 Constanta: Well (.) no (.) just nationality I would say British (.) but it is dual  
 7086 nationality so I have got Romanian nationality and British nationality.

7087 Henry: Oh you have got (.) you have got dual citizenship?

7088 Constanta: Yes (.) yes. Because (.) I think in order to sort of renounce your Romanian  
7089 citizenship it is a formal process (.) you actually have to request (.) you  
7090 know fill in some forms (.) pay some money (.) that is how you do it.  
7091 Otherwise you are kind of like given.

7092 Henry: You just have both.

7093 Constanta: Yes.

7094 Henry: Oh I didn't realise you had both. I suppose actually thinking about it when  
7095 you came over for the first time (.) that wouldn't have been that some  
7096 people might have done.

7097 Constanta: Yes (.) yes. Because (.) you have your Passport (.) don't you? Or your ID  
7098 card. The only thing is obviously I am not registered as living in Romania. I  
7099 don't have an ID card (.) so.

7100 Henry: That is interesting stuff. So I suppose living here for 14 years (.) it might be  
7101 a bit of a silly question to ask but where would you say home is for you?

7102 Constanta: Here.

7103 Henry: It is here (.) in Sheffield?

7104 Constanta: Yes.

7105 Henry: Were you with Steve when you were living in Leeds as well?

7106 Constanta: Well (.) it is a bit more complicated because I have divorced Steve eight  
7107 years ago (.) and I=

7108 Henry: =Oh gosh (.) sorry (.) I am thinking about like you were still with him now.

7109 Constanta: No it is probably better if I say it now. But I married Peter (.) he is from  
7110 near Darlington. So we have been together eight years (.) well actually I  
7111 divorced Steve longer than that because I have been with Peter eight years  
7112 now (.) so. But he is still British so you can (.) It is kind of the (.) From  
7113 your point of view it is kind of the same.

7114 Henry: Yes (.) I suppose I will just apologise for confusing the two now (.) they  
7115 have become the wrong person.

7116 Constanta: No it is alright (.) don't worry. No I didn't mention it (.) so.

7117 Henry: Right (.) okay so you were Steve when you were in Leeds and then moving  
7118 here you have=

7119 Constanta: =Yes.

7120 Henry: Okay (.) right. Let me go back to the thing because we have=

7121 Constanta: =But home is in Sheffield for me.

7122 Henry: I suppose we could probably think about more to do with the media things  
7123 (.) if you are happy to do that. Because (.) something that (.) You have a

7124 wealth of experience with this because you have been here for so long you  
7125 will have seen everything (.) wouldn't you? How do you feel about the way  
7126 that Romanian migration in particular is talked about in the media at the  
7127 moment?

7128 Constanta: I just think it is a bit unfortunate to be honest for Romanians to (.) Because  
7129 I think it is all circumstantial. Obviously there had been Polish people  
7130 before us (.) mass migration. But I think now it is more political really (.)  
7131 so it is really in my view it is more of a tool really (.) to uncontrol migration  
7132 (.) immigration and all that kind of thing. So I personally think it is just  
7133 unfortunate that we have just kind of been at the wrong time. I think it is all  
7134 to do with change of Government (.) obviously from Labour into  
7135 Conservatives and what people prefer (.) and they just use it in their (.) as  
7136 an electoral tool. That is my view (.) I am trying to be a bit more objective  
7137 than just kind of (.) But the way I feel about it (.) I don't know sometimes  
7138 of course I feel a bit of shame to say (.) you know when (.) I was thinking  
7139 about that the other day (.) it is (.) I am not used to standing up for myself  
7140 (.) maybe because I was raised in Romania and they don't teach (.) Well  
7141 they didn't teach me that (.) that is for sure. Because (.) for example if you  
7142 apply for a job and you get an interview with a recruitment agency (.) and  
7143 they are kind of interested to (.) well obviously yes you are not British so  
7144 they ask you. But I don't understand why they ask you well (.) why did you  
7145 come? Not why did you come (.) how did you come here (.) or something  
7146 like that. Because (.) if you think about it (.) it is nothing to do with your  
7147 ability to do the job. I mean you could say how long have you been here?  
7148 Yes (.) that is fair enough but you can judge by my CV (.) what I have done  
7149 (.) my skills (.) my English if I am suitable for the job. It is completely  
7150 irrelevant why (.) how did you get here (.) or something like that (.) you  
7151 know what I am saying. So I think I should challenge them (.) well why do  
7152 you need to know that. In what way this is going to help you assess if I am  
7153 suitable for this job (.) do you see what I am saying? So I do feel  
7154 sometimes questioned unnecessarily. Of course because people here my  
7155 accent and they can't place it (.) they don't really know then they ask. For  
7156 example at the till (.) Marks and Spencers at the till they (.) you have a  
7157 friendly conversation (.) "Where are you from?" "Romania". Because I  
7158 don't like to say anything else (.) that is where I am from (.) simple as. And  
7159 they would ask you (.) "So how did you get here?"

7160 Henry: On a plane.

7161 Constanta: Well (.) so why would you ask me that? So it is uncomfortable sometimes  
7162 because I mean I can understand why people are worried (.) because of  
7163 what is happening in the media (.) I can understand that. And I can  
7164 understand that it is an easy target to say "Yes (.) blame everything on  
7165 immigrants". Because it is the easiest thing to do (.) they can't really defend  
7166 themselves in any way. But it is (.) I don't know. I don't know the political  
7167 aspects ins and out why the (.) they are part of EU so they can travel freely  
7168 or UK has agreed to this. So I don't understand what the problem is really.  
7169 So (.) anyway (.) sorry I am just going off on one.

7170 Henry: No (.) no. No (.) the more you speak the better because it is sometimes (.) I  
7171 don't want to put ideas into your head really.

7172 Constanta: Yes.

7173 Henry: So how then do you feel like? Because earlier on you were saying that you  
7174 love living here (.) you know everything (.) You know you love the culture  
7175 and you have got used to the tea and (.) How does that then compare when  
7176 you see people like Nigel Farage on the news saying=

7177 Constanta: Yes but it is just=

7178 Henry: =Because it just seems at odds then at what you understand to be the culture  
7179 here (.) doesn't it?

7180 Constanta: He is just using me as a tool (.) simple as. In my opinion he is just a  
7181 political figure and he is just (.) He has got his own agenda and that is why  
7182 he is saying what he is saying but I don't particularly think. Because of my  
7183 sort of background (.) unless you show me some figures to prove that (.) yes  
7184 immigration (.) mass immigration (.) Romanians mass immigration is a  
7185 problem on the black market (.) because they don't pay taxes or on that.  
7186 Unless you actually prove then I=

7187 Henry: =You must have loved it when he said that 29 million people will come and  
7188 there wasn't even 29 million people in Romania and Bulgaria in total! I  
7189 think he said something about (.) "Everyone's going to move here". And  
7190 there weren't even that many people.

7191 Constanta: Yes (.) but then there is another thing as well. Yes (.) people do come but  
7192 they come here to work (.) most of the people. Most people. I mean  
7193 obviously there will be people who come here to steal or to (.) I don't know  
7194 there will be very few people who come to claim Benefits (.) that is for  
7195 sure. And they come to work but if they can't adapt and if they find it quite  
7196 hard (.) they might make some money (.) let's say in a few months or a  
7197 year or so but then they will go back. I don't think there is such a massive  
7198 strain on hospitals or (.) Well my husband will have a different opinion  
7199 because he is (.) Peter is (.) well project manager he works for ((name  
7200 removed)) you know like building schools. And he says that all these new  
7201 schools that they are building (.) they are building for immigrants and you  
7202 know not necessarily Romanians but like Polish or whatever. And he kind  
7203 of says (.) "Yes (.) there is a bit of a problem because there's not enough"  
7204 But anyway.

7205 Henry: So you have had some interesting conversations between yourselves then (.)  
7206 on that sort of (.) Whether it is a migration issue or whether it is something  
7207 else then?

7208 Constanta: Yes (.) of course we talked about it. But as I said (.) like if you think of the  
7209 population or the fact that this country's overcrowded (.) as I said (.) "Just  
7210 show me some numbers and". You know if you see like population density  
7211 or I know big patches (.) places where there will be problems (.) but I don't  
7212 particularly think (.) like they say (.) a hundred thousand Romanian  
7213 immigrants or whatever it is total (.) coming every year and considering

7214 how many go back. I don't think that would be the main problem for the  
7215 hospitals and obviously (.) usually (.) people and obviously as I said I didn't  
7216 look at the numbers or anything but there will be young people who come  
7217 to work and it is very unlikely that they are going to get ill and they need  
7218 hospitals. Do you see what I am saying?

7219 Maybe with kids probably (.) having kids (.) having families they need to  
7220 go to school and (.) Yes (.) so (.) yes we had some conversations but I think  
7221 (.) I don't think he particularly perceives it as a (.) yes it is a problem with  
7222 Romanians coming to the UK.

7223 Henry: No (.) I suppose from his point of view it is (.) I suppose he is thinking  
7224 about just numbers that you know there is not enough space maybe but it is  
7225 (.) Because it is interesting (.) because that is actually part of the thing (.)  
7226 isn't it? That it is about too many people coming rather than who they are  
7227 in particular.

7228 Constanta: But this is a speculation. I mean we just need to see exactly evidence for it.  
7229 At this point of time it is very easy to sort of (.) I think it is playing on  
7230 people's fears (.) because (.) I think naturally people will be (.) I mean (.) I  
7231 think this is a very tolerant nation but naturally people will have a bit of a  
7232 (.) what do you call it? Xenophobia (.) they will be a little bit (.) you know  
7233 (.) This is kind of like ours (.) what are you coming here (.) kind of thing (.)  
7234 maybe. So it is just playing on that I think. But we just want to see evidence  
7235 and then yes (.) fair enough there is a problem. But at this point of time I  
7236 think it is just a speculation (.) so.

7237 Henry: It is an interesting point you say about (.) You know historically having a  
7238 little bit of that xenophobia because it is always (.) Obviously the British  
7239 Isles they are an island aren't they (.) or a collection of islands. So there is  
7240 that sense of sort of being separate from Europe isn't there?

7241 Constanta: Yes (.) that mentality (.) possibly (.) yes. Yes (.) I think they probably  
7242 perceive themselves as being different from Europe because of that. But if  
7243 you think about it it is like maybe the reason why it is such a great country  
7244 because there is so much immigration. If you learn a little bit about the  
7245 history you kind of know there have always been people immigrating here  
7246 and so (.) yes.

7247 Henry: What about Romania as a contrast then? Because that is (.) I mean  
7248 something I was really surprised to learn was that Romania had a romance  
7249 language that descended from Latin. When I first started this project and I  
7250 was doing a bit of a research I was=

7251 Constanta: =Oh you didn't know that?

7252 Henry: No (.) I thought it was a Slavic language because obviously it is surrounded  
7253 by Hungary and Ukraine (.) it is that sort of=

7254 Constanta: =Apart from Hungary which is different (.) they are not Slavic. But yes (.)  
7255 you are right it is Bulgaria and Russia. Yes (.) well=

7256 Henry: =It is really interesting when I learned that.

7257 Constanta: But they are sort of maybe half of it is kind of (.) It is descending from  
7258 Latin but it has got a lot of Turkish influence and Slavic influence in the  
7259 language (.) so. So what do you mean (.) compared to the UK?

7260 Henry: Sorry (.) yes I wanted to just ask a bit about (.) like when we talk about how  
7261 Romania is portrayed in the press (.) what sort of things like being a  
7262 Romanian and knowing the culture and knowing the language and growing  
7263 up in Romania (.) I suppose I just wondered what sort of things do you feel  
7264 like are being missed out or things that aren't ever talked about or things  
7265 about?

7266 Constanta: Well one other thing (.) you know this 'Romanians are Coming' (.) I hope  
7267 you are watching it?

7268 Henry: Yes (.) I am. I am watching very closely. I wanted to talk to you about it at  
7269 some point.

7270 Constanta: Because there has been some debate on Facebook about it and some  
7271 Romanians are (.) "Yes (.) well of course they just could be controversial  
7272 because it's a TV programme. What do you want? You don't want  
7273 something boring on TV or you wouldn't watch it". Which is fine (.) I  
7274 understand it but I am thinking it is just nice to put things into perspective  
7275 and sort of give a bit more (.) bigger picture on to (.) There are probably  
7276 people like that who come (.) sleep on the streets and they will do anything  
7277 to make a bit more money to help their family (.) fair enough. But just  
7278 mention that there are young educated (.) who can speak English people  
7279 who come here (.) you know just give a bit more (.) put things in  
7280 perspective a bit. I didn't like that (.) I didn't like the fact that it is (.) I  
7281 mean I can see that it is a positive twist to it because they kind of like want  
7282 to say (.) "Well these people are not coming here to take your Peterefits or  
7283 anything like that". They don't necessarily want to do that. They're not a  
7284 problem in that sense (.) but they're desperate people who are coming to  
7285 work and they will have a contribution to (.) is it (.) the Government isn't it  
7286 (.) National Insurance and that kind of stuff. So (.) maybe yes you could say  
7287 yes there is a bit of positivity in it. But I just (.) I still think it is quite  
7288 disguised that positivity because I am trying to see from other people's  
7289 point of view and there will be a lot of people who are going to vote in the  
7290 next five months or six months or whatever (.) who probably average (.)  
7291 Not necessarily (.) to be honest I am not sure if education has anything to  
7292 do with it but usually I think less educated people would probably be more  
7293 adverse towards immigrants (.) I am saying (.) I don't know. Would look at  
7294 the programme and obviously they will say (.) "We're better off without the  
7295 (.) We don't need them. Why do we need people to sleep in the bush?"

7296 Henry: Well that is the thing (.) isn't it? Because some of those images were very  
7297 stark weren't they? I mean (.) I think in the first episode there was a couple  
7298 of guys sleeping in a car park (.) and in the second (.) Well I think later on  
7299 in that episode they go to a block of flats in Romania (.) they are derelict  
7300 aren't they? And the whole family is living in a small=

7301 Constanta: =Yes (.) there is no industry (.) there is no economy (.) and to be honest (.)  
7302 yes there is a lot. There is all over Romania like that. Where my

7303 grandmother's village where I grew up with them (.) well I just visited  
7304 during holidays (.) everybody is (.) Young people they all go to Bucharest  
7305 which is the capital (.) like London for the UK. And they just go there  
7306 because there are no jobs because let us just be honest (.) people move  
7307 because they want a better life (.) and they just want jobs. If you are going  
7308 to stay in a place where there is nothing to do and you can't make a living  
7309 (.) you are not going to stay there. I mean this is just like human nature  
7310 everywhere (.) not necessarily just in Romania. So that village is kind of not  
7311 (.) Because there is a lot of agriculture but people are not organised enough  
7312 to (.) In agriculture these days you kind of have to have a big farm to be  
7313 profitable. Like if people start out (.) or have my own piece of land here (.) I  
7314 have my own piece of land here (.) you are not going to produce a lot and  
7315 you are not going to (.) You are just going to make a living for yourself (.)  
7316 it is kind of going back to primitive times kind of thing. So they tend to be  
7317 like that (.) so it is kind of young people leave the village and you only have  
7318 elderly people living there. But young people getting jobs they come back  
7319 to help and (.) I don't know what is going to happen in the next 20 (.) 30  
7320 years really when generations change and=

7321 Henry: =I suppose that is where you hope that the EU will sort of pull its finger out  
7322 and start to↑?

7323 Constanta: Yes (.) but it is still up to Romanians though isn't really? They will get  
7324 support from the EU but it is really still up to them. And there is so much  
7325 corruption (.) it is crazy. Because I think the poorer the country becomes the  
7326 more corrupt it becomes as well. So (.) I don't go back to Romania very  
7327 often. And to be honest because it kind of changed (.) every time I went  
7328 back I was closer to the culture but obviously now I am further (.) further  
7329 away and I don't really care so much. Because I don't feel like I have  
7330 anything to share in the future with Romania (.) do you see what I am  
7331 saying? So I don't know (.) I am hoping that things will change for the  
7332 better. I don't want to be too pessimistic.

7333 Henry: No (.) but I suppose (.) Is it that sort of feeling I suppose you are describing  
7334 (.) when you go back you are sort of feeling like there is less and less (.)  
7335 Like you say (.) less and less to talk about?

7336 Constanta: Yes. Connection or=

7337 Henry: =Yes (.) because all your roots are here now. Everything is here.

7338 Constanta: Yes and I don't see my family. Yes (.) I go probably once very two years (.)  
7339 once every year. My brother died so I was quite close to him I used to go  
7340 and see him but he has got a boy (.) he is 10. So I kind of go to see my  
7341 nephew. I don't have children myself (.) you know for me I kind of want to  
7342 be a little bit part of him growing up. But that's (.) I tend to sort of like  
7343 visit and get him here for a week or two and (.) You know share the time  
7344 (.) you know like we will just go on a bike ride or I took him climbing (.)  
7345 yes so.

7346 Henry: He must like it here then? It is sort of like a (.) It is like a holiday isn't it  
7347 really?



7348 Constanta: Yes (.) I think he just likes spending time with me and that fact that I  
7349 actually interact with him (.) because I play (.) you know we do things.  
7350 Like his mum doesn't interact (.) she interacts with him as a parent but I  
7351 interact with him as a (.) I am not saying a role model but somebody (.) you  
7352 know an adult. It is got a d[i]fferent]

7353 Henry: [Yes (.) lik]e a mentor sort of thing?

7354 Constanta: I think so (.) and it could have been my brother's influence as well.  
7355 Because he was looking up to me so then my nephew probably sort of like  
7356 got that. So he likes me in that way. But we (.) I always (.) like when he  
7357 comes here I always sort of have things to do (.) you know (.) planned to  
7358 do things and swimming or do that or do that or a bike ride. So he just loves  
7359 that.

7360 Henry: Yes. That must be really nice (.) sort of (.) I suppose you have a week off  
7361 work and you sort of↑?=  
7362 Constanta: =Yes.

7363 Henry: Yes (.) that must be lovely for you to have just the time away from  
7364 everything and sort of just focus on a child?

7365 Constanta: Yes (.) because I don't have children so obviously (.) Last time it was in  
7366 August and it was my friend (.) she is the same age as me and she has got a  
7367 girl who is 8 (.) ((name)) is 10. So we went to the Science Museum in  
7368 London (.) and that was cool and to Magna Centre. We went to Centre  
7369 Parcs as well (.) so.

7370 Henry: Loads to do in Centre Parcs isn't there?

7371 Constanta: Yes.

7372 Henry: You are spoilt for choice really aren't you?

7373 Constanta: Yes. It was a bit expensive because I am not used to=  
7374 Henry: =Well that is the thing. You pay for each activity don't you (.) that is the  
7375 thing.

7376 Constanta: Yes (.) that was a bit like (.) Maybe to be honest the swimming pool would  
7377 have done everything for them (.) because they just like when I asked them  
7378 (.) the only thing that he liked was the quad bikes (.) he liked that. And so  
7379 that was worth paying for but everything else I think it was just (.) Because  
7380 I asked him (.) "What did you like from everything that you did?" And he  
7381 said just swimming pool (.) just take him to the swimming pool and slides  
7382 and that is it.

7383 Henry: Yes then again (.) I think if I remember right (.) is there just one Centre  
7384 Parcs? I think there might just be one.

7385 Constanta: Oh there is loads (.) about five or six I think in the whole country.

7386 Henry: Yes. Because the one I went to (.) it had like a big (.) It is almost like a big  
7387 slide but it is going right through the swimming pool building (.) it is

7388 massive. For children it is wonderful because they can go round these sort  
7389 of rapids and it is=

7390 Constanta: =Yes (.) you have probably been to the same one. It is the one that is in (.)  
7391 Just close to us (.) I think around Nottingham I think.

7392 Henry: Yes (.) I think that was the one we went to yes. But it is great for children  
7393 (.) it is sort of (.) Yes (.) I don't know (.) is there anything comparable to  
7394 like that in Romania?

7395 Constanta: No it doesn't (.) it doesn't.

7396 Henry: Adventure parks or anything like that?

7397 Constanta: No (.) it doesn't. But it has got (.) To be honest I grew up in Romania and  
7398 it is quite nice because it is a very simple life (.) and you kind of appreciate  
7399 that. So he gets to see his grandma in the village (.) and I think the  
7400 connection that people have with the land is quite (.) I don't know it is  
7401 simple but it is (.) I don't know (.) it is good because it is like the basic  
7402 values in life. You just work a little bit (.) eat for your food and then you  
7403 rest (.) and I think that is basic but it is very important to have that kind of  
7404 stuff. Obviously he just loves playing games on a computer and all that kind  
7405 of stuff but it is good to have a bit of that connection I think. Because I had  
7406 that and you kind of appreciate it.

7407 Henry: Yes (.) it is interesting you say that because obviously they were very  
7408 different here in comparison (.) isn't it? Because the connection with the  
7409 land is not really there in the same way if at all (.) is it?

7410 Constanta: No.

7411 Henry: I suppose we have the countryside but it is a very different sort of  
7412 relationship (.) isn't it?

7413 Constanta: Yes (.) it is. It is kind of removed in a way. Yes (.) it is (.) It is not that close  
7414 because obviously you go to the countryside and walk but you don't feel  
7415 like you connect to that place.

7416 Henry: You don't live on it or↑?=

7417 Constanta: =Yes.

7418 Henry: Yes.

7419 Constanta: Whilst I felt like you are kind of different to that place (.) like when I was  
7420 with my grandma and you just go (.) You just walk to the forest five  
7421 minutes and you just walk with your friends (.) go for a swim or something.  
7422 He has got loads of friends in Romania so he is happy. I think he is happy.  
7423 But yes I think he would probably notice the difference (.) because he  
7424 doesn't (.) He lives in the town where I was born and raised so (.) That  
7425 industrial place (.) so. So (.) yes I don't go to Romania very often.

7426 Henry: No and I suppose from what you said it is understandable. Because (.) if  
7427 you feel like there is less connection (.) in turn the feeling to return when  
7428 you do come back to the UK it gets weaker I suppose (.) doesn't it?

7429 Constanta: Yes it is just people really (.) just a few friends and a bit of family (.) my  
7430 nephew but (.) So it is nice to see them when I go. But I don't feel like I  
7431 want to spend too much time. My circumstances are quite different because  
7432 of what (.) I mean I have Romanian friends who love their families and  
7433 they go back and (.) But I don't have that (.) so it is different (.) I suppose. I  
7434 don't know if it is relevant in any way to?

7435 Henry: Well it is because it is your experience and that (.) Yes that is the thing (.) I  
7436 mean it is something that from what you were saying earlier like with the  
7437 experience with your mum (.) that sort of thing it is important in your life. It  
7438 shaped where you got to (.) so of course it is important. Yes it is (.)  
7439 Something I would like to just touch on. So when you first moved you say  
7440 you were on a (.) was it a Fiancée Visa (.) is that what you called it?

7441 Constanta: Yes.

7442 Henry: Yes (.) so you would of applied for that and waited probably ages for the  
7443 Home Office to get back to you and say (.) "Yes you can come".

7444 Constanta: Oh no the Visa I got from Romania.

7445 Henry: Oh you got it from Romania. You didn't have to go like the British  
7446 Embassy or something?

7447 Constanta: Yes. The British Embassy in Romania in Bucharest (.) that is how I got it.  
7448 Well (.) I mean if you want me to talk about the experience of actually  
7449 visiting UK (.) 14 years ago=

7450 Henry: =If you can remember that far (.) by all means.

7451 Constanta: Well (.) yes because there were things like (.) There were people queuing  
7452 in front of the Embassy (.) they kind of like come sort of midnight (.) so  
7453 they queued to=

7454 Henry: =Camping outside (.) waiting for it to open?

7455 Constanta: I don't think they were camping (.) they were just waiting.

7456 Henry: Just waiting (.) oh gosh.

7457 Constanta: Yes. In the past (.) I don't know if that is the case now to get a Visa. There  
7458 were like massive queues so I queued a few hours before I actually got in. I  
7459 was interviewed and that was (.) As I said the reason why (.) because  
7460 Steve was quite happy to come and see me but it just happened that he  
7461 bought the tickets for the plane and he broke his leg and he couldn't fly. So  
7462 (.) then he was trying to swap the names so I could fly (.) obviously he had  
7463 return tickets so like two weeks and come back. And so obviously you have  
7464 all the applications and you have to prove that you know this person as well  
7465 (.) photos of me and him together etc (.) letters (.) etc. So you put the  
7466 application forward (.) so I queued a few hours and then you get in and then  
7467 you get an interview with the (.) Oh I don't know (.) Consul (.) Consul I  
7468 think it is called. And I remember now (.) it was a young guy who  
7469 obviously questioning (.) you know when did you meet (.) blah blah. How  
7470 long is the relationship? I mean I think he was trying to see if I have a real

7471 relationship with Steve (.) and then I remember this question very clearly  
7472 because he basically asked me (.) “So how do I know you will come back?”  
7473 And I was a bit shocked because I didn’t expect that sort of brutal (.) yes.  
7474 But I think they are meant to be like that (.) those questions because you  
7475 can’t really hide when you are faced with that.

7476 Henry: No. I suppose they are trying to expose everything aren’t they? And then  
7477 see if there is anything that doesn’t add up.

7478 Constanta: Yes. Because I had a return ticket but the thing is I had a job in Romania  
7479 and I said (.) “Well I don’t know anybody there apart from Steve clearly. I  
7480 don’t know his family but I have a job here (.) I wouldn’t just stay there”.  
7481 To me it didn’t make sense because I was invited for a visit for two weeks.  
7482 Anyway I passed the interview (.) so he gave me the Visa to visit him (.)  
7483 and once (.) I think once you have the first Visa and you come back then I  
7484 think they kind of know that you are just visiting and you come back. The  
7485 thing is they probably looked at the fact that I was not married (.) I didn’t  
7486 have property in Romania (.) that kind of stuff.

7487 Henry: Nothing to tie you down to come back (.) yes.

7488 Constanta: Which it kind of was true (.) you know it was right because that is kind of  
7489 things that (.) As I said I have friends in Romania because they have  
7490 children (.) they have family there (.) they have jobs (.) they are not going  
7491 to try to emigrate because okay yes maybe it is tough or whatever but they  
7492 are settled (.) aren’t they?

7493 Henry: Yes (.) yes of course (.) yes.

7494 Constanta: So that was the first experience and then it was easier to get the Visa. And  
7495 the last one was just a Fiancée Visa (.) it was not that difficult to actually  
7496 get it (.) so. But yes I remember people queuing and=

7497 Henry: =Gosh. And how does that compare to now then? Because (.) I mean  
7498 obviously it was (.) Was it January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 when Romania became  
7499 formally part of the EU but then obviously it was last year when the  
7500 transitional control was ended (.) wasn’t it?

7501 Constanta: Yes (.) when they can (.) Was it last year or two years ago (.) I can’t  
7502 remember.

7503 Henry: Twenty fourteen (.) so yes a year ago wasn’t it.

7504 Constanta: The fact that you can work (.) they can find work. I think that is the massive  
7505 change to be honest. I don’t know because I hear about friends (.)  
7506 Romanians who come and they just like (.) I don’t know they live 10 in a  
7507 house in London somewhere. They are not in my circle of friends so I don’t  
7508 get to see these people.

7509 Henry: No (.) you just hear it from people type thing?

7510 Constanta: Yes or they work you know on the black market (.) so they don’t actually  
7511 pay taxes and things like that. And one of my friends was actually laughing  
7512 at them because they are so stupid. Because basically what they do (.) they

7513 don't pay (.) They just take all the money (.) so even if they are self  
7514 employed (.) they don't declare. They take all the money and then they have  
7515 cash and they want to buy a house. But they can't get a mortgage because  
7516 there is no history. There is no history of how much they earn. So my friend  
7517 was kind of laughing at them because like this is not Romania (.) you know.  
7518 In Romania it is completely different (.) if you have the cash you are (.) It  
7519 doesn't matter=

7520 Henry: =Yes (.) that must be (.) yes it must be a bit of a disappointment then in that  
7521 sense. If you have sort of worked (.) worked for ages really hard (.) trying  
7522 to just get the money together=

7523 Constanta: =Save money and then not being able to get a mortgage.

7524 Henry: And then the Bank Clerk it is just like=

7525 Constanta: =You don't earn enough to be able to pay the mortgage (.) so I can't give  
7526 you a mortgage. Even if you have a massive deposit. So (.) anyway.

7527 Henry: So it was a big change then?

7528 Constanta: Yes things are quite different.

7529 Henry: And for the better would you say? Have they changed for the better or do  
7530 you think it is? =

7531 Constanta: =In Romania?

7532 Henry: Well in terms of having the freedom now to not have to apply for a Visa or  
7533 (.) You guys could move to France tomorrow or back to Romania (.) it is=

7534 Constanta: =I know but it is not as simple as that though is it? Because=

7535 Henry: =No (.) I suppose not. I am making it sound like you just=

7536 Constanta: =No it is not really because I think one of the things that you see in that  
7537 documentary 'Romanians Are Coming' (.) you really do need somebody to  
7538 help you out here (.) already live here. And people do help out.

7539 Henry: Alex (.) yes I think Alex he was the street cleaner (.) he helped a guy that  
7540 came (.) didn't he?

7541 Constanta: Yes.

7542 Henry: His English wasn't very good (.) was it?

7543 Constanta: Yes but not what I am saying. It is like (.) for example I have relatives (.)  
7544 right (.) I have a cousin (.) she is (.) I think she is 23 or 24 and she is  
7545 having a really tough life (.) in a sense of she has done the (.) She qualified  
7546 as a nurse and she worked for a year in a hospital as a voluntary to be able  
7547 to get a job. So she didn't get paid for a year but she had her parents support  
7548 because her parents paid the rent. I didn't have that. I prefer in a way (.) that  
7549 is why I kind of like just got a job as Admin and I kind of worked my way  
7550 through (.) because (.) I just needed to earn money. So I will just learn a bit  
7551 of Excel and just kind of do it. But she wanted to be a nurse so for a year  
7552 she went (.) so her parents helped her with the rent and every week she was

7553 going back home (.) and she gets the food that will last for another week.  
7554 So she lives in Bucharest now and so every week on a Friday or a Saturday  
7555 morning (.) she goes back to her parents (.) her parents on Sunday when she  
7556 goes back to Bucharest will give her food for a week. So you carry all the  
7557 food you get (.) well (.) most of it anyway because it is expensive (.) food  
7558 is expensive. So she will carry all that and they will give her money for the  
7559 rent. So basically she was going to the hospital working let us say from 7  
7560 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock and then she was coming home and  
7561 she was just not doing anything. Of course she would like to come here but  
7562 I can't help her because obviously I have a family (.) I live with my  
7563 husband (.) I don't have room and she can't speak English. And I kind of  
7564 like (.) Nobody helped me so (.) But do you see what I am saying? So that  
7565 is what you need. So Romanians who are already established here (.) they  
7566 will get their relatives to come and stay maybe for a month or two or three  
7567 until they get a job and they can pay their own. So they have a roof.

7568 Henry: Just to start them off?

7569 Constanta: Yes (.) to start them off. They don't really need a lot of money. And for a  
7570 few months they would help them (.) they will give them food and they  
7571 don't have to pay expenses like the (.) I don't know if you knew this but=

7572 Henry: =Well (.) some bits obviously I have known from (.) But obviously it is=

7573 Constanta: =But that is what (.) That is kind of one of the triggers (.) you kind of (.)  
7574 There are probably loads of people out there (.) young people who would  
7575 kind of want to come and get a job and start a life but if they don't have  
7576 somebody to have them (.) they wouldn't come.

7577 Henry: No (.) because they need that step up the ladder first.

7578 Constanta: Yes. There are very few people who come and sleep in the (.) That is  
7579 definitely (.) I would say that is more of an exception to the rule.

7580 Henry: Yes (.) that is what they show (.) because that is what is out there to be  
7581 filmed I suppose. But (.) I suppose (.) I have more or less finished with the  
7582 questions (.) apart from (.) There is one I suppose I would like to just have a  
7583 quick (.) I mean we are conscious of time (.) it is (.) the chap will be  
7584 probably coming around in about five or ten minutes so (.) Based on what  
7585 we have been talking about Visas and now fortunately that stuff is not there  
7586 anymore. Do you feel like our ability to migrate across Europe should be a  
7587 right or do you think it is something that should be? I mean you were  
7588 saying about the people can only move if they are being supported. So even  
7589 then it is not an ultimate right because they need to have something to go to.  
7590 But do you think in principle we should be able to move wherever we want  
7591 or do you think it is more something that should be planned and carefully  
7592 controlled? You know in the way that some of these anti people would say  
7593 that.

7594 Constanta: I have no idea because it all depends on how the country is run (.) I think. I  
7595 can't see (.) from that point of view. You see I can only see from my point  
7596 of view (.) my immediate experience. I don't see from policymaker point of  
7597 view. So from my point of view I think once the politicians have agreed that

7598 this can be done then I think people have the right to do that. If this is an  
7599 agreement (.) I think what I am saying. But if they (.) I think they should  
7600 just kind of (.) As a citizen you should sort of play by the rules really (.) in  
7601 my opinion. Just don't do anything illegal.

7602 Henry: Yes you have set a really good example of that (.) you know like what you  
7603 were saying when you were turned down a job and you decided (.) well go  
7604 and do what I need to do (.) you know to get where I need to get to (.) an A  
7605 Level in English. Which is probably more than what a lot of people here  
7606 have got.

7607 Constanta: Well (.) I don't know people are different (.) but I think (.) I would say that  
7608 somebody who would immigrate and successfully adapt to the culture I  
7609 think are fighters. The people who fight (.) who will just not give up (.)  
7610 they will just work and they would not be people who are lazy or who can't  
7611 be arsed. Because (.) they are not courageous enough to make that move.  
7612 For example my sister-in-law she doesn't like coming here. She doesn't like  
7613 anything not familiar. She doesn't like the fact that she doesn't understand  
7614 the language. She is comfortable where she is (.) it is hard. She doesn't have  
7615 money (.) you know when I offer to help she doesn't accept. She is that  
7616 kind of person. I don't know how many people are like that but I just think  
7617 that if you have that journey where you have adapted and you work and you  
7618 have progressed (.) I think you are the type of person who will fight and  
7619 will just say "Okay well I'll learn the language if that's what it takes". I  
7620 didn't like that when they turned me down.

7621 Henry: That is a really interesting characterisation when you say it is the  
7622 courageous people (.) it is the fighters. It is a very good way of putting it I  
7623 think (.) because it must be very scary to go somewhere that you are totally  
7624 unfamiliar (.) the language isn't familiar and all these things that look sort  
7625 of vaguely like you have seen.

7626 Constanta: And then when you leave you might not adapt. I know a lot of Romanians  
7627 who absolutely they live here but they don't like it (.) they don't like the  
7628 English culture so much.

7629 Henry: And the food (.) that is something that some people have said (.) the food.  
7630 They just can't get used to the food.

7631 Constanta: Oh well I don't have that problem. I like good food so and I cook every day  
7632 so. But I think it is one of the things that (.) you know it was hard for me (.)  
7633 it was the weather. Spending a lot of time indoors which I was not used to.  
7634 In Romania you spend more time outdoors.

7635 Henry: You say with the land you have got more connection. So I suppose it is  
7636 something to do with that (.) is it?

7637 Constanta: Yes. And I don't know I just (.) I found it quite hard to be almost like  
7638 confined. You have to be inside all the time and the greyness (.) you know.  
7639 The language is a massive problem and the culture as well and you just  
7640 have to (.) It just takes time really to learn it. The jokes as well (.) when  
7641 people make jokes and you don't understand (.) they have to explain and it  
7642 is not a joke anymore.

7643 Henry: Yes. To be fair I am like that. I have never been very good with humour (.)  
7644 my family look at me like “How can you not get that?” And I am like (.)  
7645 “Well I don’t know (.) I just don’t get it”. So sometimes it is not even a  
7646 cultural thing (.) I think it is just a (.) You are just on a wavelength  
7647 sometimes aren’t you?

7648 Constanta: Yes (.) possibly (.) yes.

7649 Henry: No that is really interesting stuff. I don’t know if there is anything else that  
7650 we have touched on that you want to talk anymore about? I am conscious  
7651 of time.

7652 Constanta: No (.) no it is absolutely fine. As long as this was helpful.

7653 Henry: It has been really interesting (.) really interesting.

7654 Constanta: It is different. I think in a way I wanted to have this interview because I  
7655 knew that I was slightly different from the mass migration that is happening  
7656 (.) that has been happening recently and I have a different experience being  
7657 married to a British man. And also because obviously because I have  
7658 studied sociology I kind of understand it is important.

7659 Henry: Yes. And from what I have heard with my other interviewees is that each  
7660 one of you have got a sort of an a-typical different sort of life (.) I don’t  
7661 think there is actually someone who has like a normal experience of  
7662 moving. I think it is quite unique in how people experience it because  
7663 everyone has different backgrounds don’t they and different experiences  
7664 when they do move. But it has been really interesting (.) obviously for me  
7665 it is very informative because my other part of the research is looking at  
7666 how the media portray all this stuff. So it sort of=

7667 Constanta: =Well it might be a discrepancy between what you actually see in your  
7668 research and what is in the media.

7669 Henry: Yes (.) well that is the point isn’t it? It is massively different. It is totally  
7670 different and that is what is always so nice when I have my interviews (.) it  
7671 is just the (.) It brings you back to the ground again after being sort of up  
7672 there with all the newspaper headlines and whatever else. Yes (.) so let me  
7673 just switch these off. ((transcript ends))



*Transcript 8: Andrei*

- 7674 Henry: That one is on. I can't get this one going. That's alright now as well. Let me  
7675 just get my schedule. I have so much paper it's ridiculous. Some of it I'm  
7676 sure is unnecessary. ((laughter))
- 7677 Andrei: I feel sorry for you having to transcribe all this afterwards.
- 7678 Henry: It's good fun. It's nice (.) because a lot of these interviews you find certain  
7679 things happen (.) certain moments (.) and things are said (.) and it sort of  
7680 sticks. Then when you're listening to it again you get to relive it again (.) so  
7681 it's actually quite (.) Yes (.) it's a lot more fun than some of the other stuff  
7682 I've transcribed before (.) put it that way. If I could just start (.) I would like  
7683 you just to tell me a bit about yourself. For example (.) you were saying  
7684 earlier that you have a lecture (.) and you said you're doing a course in  
7685 technology (.) was it?
- 7686 Andrei: I'm doing an architectural technology course. It's a part-time course (.)  
7687 because I also work full-time.
- 7688 Henry: Oh (.) right. What's your job then?
- 7689 Andrei: I'm a principal engineer. I basically work in software development for a  
7690 company called ((name removed)). We make software like ((names  
7691 removed)) (.) and other stuff.
- 7692 Henry: So you know a lot of the stuff you're doing on the course then already?
- 7693 Andrei: Yes. This is the connection with the course (.) that obviously I make  
7694 software for people (.) which I'm not necessarily 100% sure how they use it.  
7695 So I'm here to find out how the software is used in the wild. At the same  
7696 time (.) I've got a long-term passion with architecture. I want to do a self-  
7697 build at one point. So I'm really just doing this for myself (.) just to learn  
7698 how to build a house really.
- 7699 Henry: How interesting. So it's not from the point of view that you've reached a  
7700 ceiling in your career (.) and this is (.) Because there are official  
7701 qualifications you have to do to become an architect (.) isn't there?
- 7702 Andrei: Yes (.) absolutely. There might be a bit of that as well. I'm obviously  
7703 working for Autodesk. To work for Autodesk (.) it's one of the four major  
7704 software companies in the world (.) so you're at the top of the game by the  
7705 time you get there. I guess you could say I've hit a ceiling in the sense that  
7706 if I wanted to progress more (.) and make more money (.) I would have to  
7707 give up a lot more of my life (.) and that's something I will never be  
7708 prepared to compromise on. This is something I really like and that is not  
7709 work anymore. It's just fun.
- 7710 Henry: Yes.
- 7711 Andrei: Unless I will be extremely comfortable financially in four years' time (.)  
7712 when I finish this course (.) then I don't think I will ever get to practice  
7713 architecture (.) per se (.) but you always stay in software development (.)

7714 yes. Yes (.) this is just really for me. All my life I've done what I felt I had  
7715 to do (.) and now I actually get to do what I want to do.

7716 Henry: That's nice (.) then (.) to feel like you're at that point?

7717 Andrei: Yes.

7718 Henry: Because for a lot of people (.) a lot of the time (.) it can seem like they're  
7719 having to work to live (.) as opposed to-

7720 Andrei: That's the thing (.) yes. For me (.) I don't have to do this. If I fail (.) if it  
7721 doesn't happen (.) I'm still absolutely fine. I've got a career. I get paid quite  
7722 well. I think it's quite a privilege that at 35 years old (.) when I'm a fully  
7723 grown man (.) hopefully (.) he says (.) I get to do what I want to do. It's  
7724 education (.) and it's really just because I really want to (.) not because I  
7725 have to.

7726 Henry: That's great.

7727 Andrei: It's relaxing and easier to do.

7728 Henry: How long have you been in the UK then?

7729 Andrei: I arrived on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2000.

7730 Henry: Right (.) so fifteen years ago?

7731 Andrei: Fifteen years now (.) yes. ((laughter))

7732 Henry: Yes. Hence why your link with the other participant I mentioned about-

7733 Andrei: ((name removed)) yes. She's been here quite a long time.

7734 Henry: Yes (.) she arrived 2001 (.) I think. So you've both been around for quite a  
7735 while. You will have seen quite a lot.

7736 Andrei: We only met about seven or eight years ago (.) actually (.) while exercising.  
7737 We were doing British Military Fitness. Have you heard of those guys?

7738 Henry: No. ((laughter))

7739 Andrei: It's ex-soldiers who come and train you. Obviously you pay them (.) but  
7740 instead of going to the gym (.) and sweating it out in a gym (.) you go and  
7741 do it in the park.

7742 Henry: It's a very intense training session then?

7743 Andrei: Yes. It's the next level in fitness. ((laughter))

7744 Henry: Yes (.) it sounds like it. Gosh.

7745 Andrei: That's how I met her.

7746 Henry: Is that with all of the commands and all the authentic sort of thing?

7747 Andrei: Absolutely. I think if I had seven lives one of them I would have dedicated  
7748 to the Army. Not because I like following orders (.) but just because I like  
7749 discipline for some reason (.) in moderation (.) and if I choose to follow.

7750 Henry: I suppose that fits in with what you were saying earlier to me (.) just about  
7751 being able to cut bread out of your diet. That must take a lot of discipline (.)  
7752 to train you to think in certain ways.

7753 Andrei: Well (.) I got to a certain weight at one point. I think I was about 105kgs (.)  
7754 which was quite bad. I was working in computers. Obviously this was the  
7755 only working job in town for a Romanian back then. I ended up working in  
7756 computers for PC World. I was waking up in a morning (.) getting in the car  
7757 (.) getting to work. Get out of the car (.) stay in front of the computer eight  
7758 hours. Back in the car (.) back at home (.) playing some games.

7759 Henry: I can relate to that (.) that sort of lifestyle of computers=

7760 Andrei: =I was putting a lot of weight on. I went through a divorce with my wife. I  
7761 wanted to change my life completely (.) a new job (.) a new girlfriend (.)  
7762 new everything (.) new me. So I just ended up doing that. Then it  
7763 culminated that in 2010 I cycled from England to Romania.

7764 Henry: Wow.

7765 Andrei: For charity.

7766 ]Henry: Gosh.

7767 Andrei: We raised £20 (.)000 for a good cause.

7768 Henry: Wow. That must have been quite a range of different geographies to get

7769 Andrei: Absolutely (.) yes. The title of the whole thing was called ((details  
7770 removed))

7771 Henry: Whereabouts in the UK did you start then (.) from the start of that journey?

7772 Andrei: Door to door (.) starting in Sheffield. Cycled to Hull. Jumped on the ferry.  
7773 Got off in Rotterdam. Then through Holland (.) Northern Germany (.) down  
7774 towards this the border with Germany and Austria. Into Austria (.)  
7775 obviously Melk and all those nice places (.) and then Vienna. Then after  
7776 that you've got Bratislava (.) because you're going into Slovakia. Which is  
7777 only like a 60m ride between the two capitals (.) because they're both close  
7778 to the border. Budapest (.) and then into Transylvania (.) where I'm from.  
7779 Because ((name removed)) is from the south (.) ((name removed)) is from  
7780 the Moldova side of it (.) but I'm Transylvanian (.) so I'm a proper  
7781 Romanian. ((laughter))

7782 Henry: Quite an interesting (.) yes. I don't know everything there is to know about  
7783 Romanian history (.) by any stretch of the imagination (.) but Transylvania  
7784 appears quite a lot in the way that the country has (.) as it's had different  
7785 faces over the years (.) it seems to appear a lot as one of the centre points=

7786 Andrei: =In my opinion it's three different countries bundled up into one. We just  
7787 happen to speak the same language (.) but our origins are completely  
7788 different. The south was under Turkish rule for many (.) many years (.) so  
7789 there's a combination of Turkish with all the (.) I can't remember. I don't  
7790 know the names in English (.) but all the migrating people that were around.  
7791 There were quite a lot. They have in Moldova a Slavic influence (.) more

7792 like Russian. Their accent is a bit more Slavic. Then you have Transylvania  
7793 (.) which was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (.) so we're more  
7794 German (.) more Hungarian (.) more that type of stuff.

7795 Henry: There does to be=

7796 Andrei: =It's like Wales (.) Scotland (.) and England. It really is. It's quite=

7797 Henry: =Yes (.) the complexities in the way that=

7798 Andrei: =It's a conglomerate of three nations (.) really.

7799 Henry: Yes. Does that even translate into the accents (.) and the terms for things (.)  
7800 and all that sort of stuff?

7801 Andrei: Southerners speak very fast. The Moldavians have a very strong Slavic  
7802 accent. We (.) obviously I can't help being biased (.) ((laughter)) in  
7803 Transylvania we speak the proper Romanian (.) which is slow (.) and you  
7804 think twice before you say something (.) that kind of stuff.

7805 Henry: It's more like I suppose a southern accent here (.) then (.) in a way? In the  
7806 sense that it's sort of like the Queen's English is spoken. It's more (.)

7807 Andrei: Yes (.) like a cockney. Well (.) no. See (.) that's considered posh (.) more  
7808 like unnecessarily (.) I don't know what the word is (.) an unnecessarily  
7809 posh kind of accent. But we don't necessarily speak (.) In Bucharest I think  
7810 their grammar is terrible. They sometimes don't respect the plural to the  
7811 name. I don't know if you've spoken any Romanian.

7812 Henry: Some (.) but not (.) ((laughter))

7813 Andrei: Basically we have a termination for every person (.) for every single verb.  
7814 So it's not (.) "I have (.) you have." "He has" (.) see (.) that's one variation  
7815 in English (.) but then everybody else is 'have'. In Romanian for every  
7816 person you have a different termination for the verb.

7817 Henry: So it gets quite complicated? There's a lot of shortcuts then that people go  
7818 through to try and summarise?

7819 Andrei: I think there are three or four types of past (.) the different types of pasts (.)  
7820 and then there are a couple of types of futures (.) I think. Yes (.) it gets  
7821 exponentially more complex. ((laughter)) Yes (.) definitely a conglomerate  
7822 of three nations.

7823 Henry: Yes (.) we will have to come back to this later on (.) once we've found out a  
7824 bit more about you (.) in terms of what we were saying about different parts  
7825 of Romania.

7826 Andrei: Sure.

7827 Henry: When you first came to the UK (.) working in PC World (.) was that the  
7828 start of when you first arrived then?

7829 Andrei: When I first came to the UK I had to work as a window cleaner for seven  
7830 months. Because back then Romania wasn't part of the EU (.) and you still  
7831 needed a visa just to get here. And for my tourist visa to be turned into a

7832 working visa (.) when I got married to a British citizen (.) we married in  
7833 Spain (.) that took seven months.

7834 Henry: To come through?

7835 Andrei: Yes. I remember ringing them a few times (.) and I said (.) “Well (.) how do  
7836 you expect me to support myself for seven months?” and they said (.) “Well  
7837 (.) I don’t make the laws.” “Well (.) if you were to lose your job tomorrow  
7838 would you last for seven months without an income?” So of course I  
7839 worked cash in hand as a window cleaner.

7840 Henry: Just to make ends meet?

7841 Andrei: Absolutely (.) yes (.) support myself. This is quite a crazy thing (.) because  
7842 I was working with this guy called Ryan. He was English (.) and he was  
7843 working cash in hand with me while he was claiming Jobseeker’s  
7844 Allowance. He also had a house for free given by the government (.) so he  
7845 had a council house in which everything was paid. What he was doing (.) he  
7846 was also living with his girlfriend and renting out the house that he got from  
7847 the state for free.

7848 Henry: Oh (.) God. ((laughter))

7849 Andrei: That was my first impression. “Wow. You really can do anything you want  
7850 here.” ((laughter)) Obviously now I’m British (.) now I will strangulate him  
7851 on the spot (.) but back then I was just unsure. I was like (.) “Really (.) is  
7852 that how it works here?” That was the first impression.

7853 Henry: What did you know about the UK before you came? Were you quite a blank  
7854 slate (.) didn’t know what to expect?

7855 Andrei: I knew where it was on the map (.) and when I was in Spain I worked with a  
7856 lot of English guys. I used to live in Tenerife. In Tenerife I worked as a  
7857 time-share representative (.) so I was selling time-share to people. I was one  
7858 of those guys. You can shoot me now. ((laughter)) But I was on the British  
7859 branch. You see (.) I learnt my English back in Romania (.) where I was  
7860 watching MTV. I don’t consider this by any means a virtue (.) the fact that I  
7861 speak many languages. I think some people just have the talent for it.

7862 Henry: Yes.

7863 Andrei: I am quite alright in about three or four (.) but I’ve learnt English with an  
7864 American accent and then when I first met the Brits I couldn’t understand a  
7865 word they were saying. But these guys were southerners (.) I think (.) and a  
7866 couple of Scousers as well (.) so it wasn’t easy.

7867 Henry: No.

7868 Andrei: Yes (.) that’s what I knew about it. When I left Tenerife I knew that if I  
7869 wanted to make something with my life I’ve got to move to a proper  
7870 country.

7871 Henry: I suppose you would have met some English people in Tenerife (.) wouldn’t  
7872 you?

7873 Andrei: The guys I was working with. And my wife was British of course.

7874 Henry: Yes. So you speak obviously Romanian (.) English (.) Spanish (.) and  
7875 German? Is that the four?

7876 Andrei: Spanish (.) German. I speak a bit of Italian. I'm not too bad in French either.

7877 Henry: Gosh.

7878 Andrei: Like I said (.) you just pick these things up. Formal education in Romania  
7879 for languages was (.) other than French everything was pretty poor. My  
7880 English teacher was rubbish (.) but the French teacher was good.

7881 Henry: I suppose the advantage you've got is that Romania has so much in  
7882 common with Spanish and Italian.

7883 Andrei: Well (.) you put an S at the end of every word and you speak Spanish.  
7884 ((laughter)) For example (.) you would say (.) "Come ti chiami?" in Italian  
7885 (.) "What is your name?" "Como te llamas?" in Spanish. And you will say  
7886 (.) "Cum te Cheama?" in Romanian.

7887 Henry: So it's just so subtle a difference?

7888 Andrei: Yes.

7889 Henry: It's interesting. You're saying your first impressions (.) then (.) when you  
7890 were in the UK (.) is a bit dodgy.

7891 Andrei: Well (.) I knew I was coming to an industrial town. I read a bit about it. I  
7892 knew that Maggie came up and made a mess of the whole place (.) and  
7893 didn't requalify people (.) just expected people to survive somehow after  
7894 closing all the steelworks. Yes (.) and obviously I entered at the lower level  
7895 of society (.) because I was unemployed. My wife worked in Tesco all her  
7896 life (.) so she wasn't in a particularly prominent position (.) and her friends  
7897 were all just sort of (.) I don't know whether it's low to middle-class (.)  
7898 because there's a class in there. Yes (.) I was in contact with those kinds of  
7899 people (.) but yes (.) as I've lived here longer then I've learnt that there's  
7900 quite a lot to learn (.) and there are some cool people and cool  
7901 opportunities.

7902 Henry: But quite a tough environment (.) then (.) it sounds like (.) when you first  
7903 arrived? Just trying to (.)

7904 Andrei: Yes.

7905 Henry: Until you're finally bedded in and

7906 Andrei: It was good for weight loss (.) I tell you.

7907 Henry: Good for what (.) sorry?

7908 Andrei: It was good for weight loss. Because I was working in Stocksbridge. Do  
7909 you know where Stocksbridge is (.) towards Barnsley?

7910 Henry: Barnsley (.) yes.

7911 Andrei: Yes (.) towards Manchester (.) that way.

7912 Anyway (.) in the winter I had to carry a ladder at seven o'clock in the morning (.) and it's on  
7913 top of a hill. By the time you went with a squeegee (.) by the time you came  
7914 with the blade (.) it was basically frosted (.) the window. I think I lost about  
7915 six or seven kilos in a month. It was quite tough going. So for that reason it  
7916 was good. But yes (.) I was making £30/£40 a day (.) which back in 2000  
7917 wasn't too bad.

7918 Henry: No (.) and I suppose also compared to wages that you might have got in  
7919 Romania that's also=

7920 Andrei: =I never worked in Romania (.) but I worked in Spain.

7921 Henry: So you moved to Spain then more or less as soon as you finished school?

7922 Andrei: Yes (.) well (.) I left in 1998. I went to university in Romania. I did  
7923 philosophy. After three or four classes I said (.) "Jesus Christ. What's this?"  
7924 ((laughter)) I just left. I hitchhiked from Romania all the way to Spain with  
7925 three days left on my visa. ((laughter))

7926 Henry: Wow. ((laughter))

7927 Andrei: I slept on the trucks and that kind of stuff. Yes (.) I've done a bit of that too.

7928 Henry: You're inclined to the travelling sort of?

7929 Andrei: Yes (.) well (.) this was part of the reason why I wanted to cycle back to  
7930 Romania (.) because if I came hitchhiking then I can go back in a manual  
7931 way. Yes (.) I guess slightly tough beginnings (.) but things worked out in  
7932 the end.

7933 Henry: Was your age a factor when you first moved? You didn't feel like you had  
7934 ties in Romania to cause you to stay after you finished? =

7935 Andrei: =I was quite clever with that. I cut off all my girlfriends. ((laughter)) I left  
7936 home when I was 14 to go to study in another city (.) for my high school (.)  
7937 and I was staying in a dorm. So I left home quite early. So I didn't have any  
7938 (.) well (.) some (.) but I didn't particularly miss my parents (.) let's say (.)  
7939 every day.

7940 Henry: Yes.

7941 Andrei: My grandmother used to take me travelling to Serbia. I don't know if you  
7942 know (.) back in the day when the Serbian war (.) NATO bombed the crap  
7943 out of-

7944 Henry: In the early 1990s?

7945 Andrei: Yes. Obviously Serbia was lacking basic supplies (.) so Romanians would  
7946 cross the border and sell them stuff (.) and my grandmother took me to do a  
7947 bit of that.

7948 Henry: Wow.

7949 Andrei: I went to Germany (.) because my auntie lives in Germany (.) so I stayed  
7950 with her for a couple of months. So I knew what I was doing. I knew how  
7951 to talk to border guards and how to cross things.

7952 Henry: Street smarts (.) I suppose you could call it (.) couldn't you?

7953 Andrei: Yes (.) but you see as a child I had long hair (.) and I was listening to Queen  
7954 and then to Metallica (.) and then back to the Doors and Led Zeppelin. I  
7955 was reading a lot of philosophy (.) Emile Cioran (.) and Iliad (.) and all  
7956 those guys (.) a lot of Balzac. I guess life made me a man. Necessity pushed  
7957 me. Because when you're pushed in a corner you're really surprised. You  
7958 surprise yourself of what you're capable of doing. If I would have been born  
7959 in England I think I would have been a druggie (.) or something pointless (.)  
7960 I think (.) because life would have been easy (.) and I didn't have to do  
7961 anything. I just ended up doing things out of necessity.

7962 Henry: It's interesting you say that (.) because the sort of environment you're  
7963 talking about (.) when you're going to Serbia with your gran (.) that's quite  
7964 a turbulent time in that part of the world anyway (.) wasn't it?  
7965 Communism=

7966 Andrei: =1998 must have been the hardest one in Romania after the Second World  
7967 War. Iliescu came to power. Jesus Christ. Then Constantinescu came to  
7968 power (.) and Constantinescu came on TV and he says that he wants to  
7969 resign because he simply can't do this shit anymore. If the president of your  
7970 country tells you that when you're 18 (.) clearly you're thinking (.) "I've just  
7971 got to get out of here." I remember before I left I was so negative (.) and so  
7972 pissed off (.) and so ready to go (.) I didn't care what was happening. I just  
7973 wanted to get the fuck out. Excuse my French.

7974 Henry: No (.) no. It's quite profound. Because when you look back now do you feel  
7975 like your view to all of that has changed as time has gone on (.) and you've  
7976 lived in Tenerife and the UK?

7977 Andrei: If I would do anything different (.) do you mean?

7978 Henry: Well (.) just in terms of how you look upon what you did back then (.) yes  
7979 (.) would you do anything different? =

7980 Andrei: =Sometimes I sit in bed and it haunts me at night. Particularly some  
7981 experiences when I got locked up a couple of times (.) because they found  
7982 me without a visa of course. Yes (.) some of that stuff comes and haunts me  
7983 at night (.) and I try to push it away. I don't know if you have this when  
7984 you're in bed. Your defences are down (.) everything seems worse (.) like  
7985 the fear of the dentist (.) that kind of stuff. ((laughter))

7986 Henry: Yes.

7987 Andrei: I don't know if it happens to you. It happens to me.

7988 Henry: Well (.) it depends with also the way the dream manifests. Because  
7989 sometimes you can wake up and you feel like you've actually been-



7990 Andrei: Not necessarily a dream. Just sitting in bed and just thinking of all these  
7991 things. What I mean when I say they haunt me (.) you just think (.) “Oh (.)  
7992 how the hell did I get out of that one?” Yes (.) some things I would have  
7993 done differently (.) but the whole journey was phenomenal. I think I've had  
7994 first-hand life experience. The university of life (.) I think ((laughter))=

7995 Henry: =Yes (.) that's what's so interesting (.) what you're saying (.) because you  
7996 tried university (.) and for three weeks it just didn't (.) Even though you say  
7997 you have been reading philosophy (.) which is presumably why you were (.)  
7998 “Yes (.) I want to do philosophy. That's what I want to do.”

7999 Andrei: Absolutely.

8000 Henry: It was sort of like (.) “What is this?”

8001 Andrei: A muppet turned up (.) and he started talking a lot of rubbish in class (.) and  
8002 had an argument with one of the teachers on the subject. I was like (.) “No  
8003 (.) this is not for me.” I went to the big city (.) and everybody was doing  
8004 well (.) everybody had cars. My mind opened up to the things that you can  
8005 do. In Kluge (.) where I went to be a student (.) you could feel the Western  
8006 influence heavily compared to my small town (.) or the slightly bigger town  
8007 that that I went to high school. I was like (.) “Oh (.) man. I bet while I'm  
8008 sitting here (.) trying to learn this piece of crap (.) somebody is throwing  
8009 themselves off a bridge with a bungee cord. So what am I doing here? Why  
8010 is life?” I felt claustrophobic. I just wanted to get out and do something  
8011 cool.

8012 Henry: You definitely did that. ((laughter))

8013 Andrei: Yes (.) well (.) in Spain obviously I was illegal for two years (.) so I just  
8014 busked a lot. I happened to play guitar (.) so I played in the street a lot of  
8015 times. Then I moved on and played in hotels and bars (.) the Beatles and the  
8016 Van Morrison songs for the English tourists.

8017 Henry: You would have found a sort of momentum then (.) wouldn't you? Because  
8018 you sort of knew what places you could go to.

8019 Andrei: Well (.) I started making 8 (.)000 pesetas (.) it was pesetas back then (.)  
8020 which was about £40 (.) and I was making that every night just for playing  
8021 three hours. I was like (.) “Wow (.) this is good. I could do this forever.”

8022 Henry: Yes. Just keeping out of sight of the police then?

8023 Andrei: Yes (.) but I made such a network of good people that I knew that were  
8024 protecting me. I even knew a couple of policemen (.) so I was pretty safe by  
8025 that time (.) even though I was completely illegal. At the time I went to the  
8026 airport to leave Spain (.) and I showed him the passport (.) and he saw an  
8027 entry two years ago (.) and the visa expired (.) he was like (.) ((laughter)) I  
8028 can remember what the guy said. He looked at me (.) and he laughed (.) and  
8029 I was like (.) “I know.” And he says (.) “Anyway (.) voila. Just go and fly.”  
8030 ((laughter))

8031 Henry: I suppose there's sort of an irony in that (.) isn't there? Because you hear all  
8032 these stories about (.) here I think the British Government call them

8033 detention centres (.) really ominous. It just wouldn't have been worth it (.)  
8034 would it (.) to bring an issue with it? Because there was talk about (.)  
8035 "Come forward (.) so that we can sort it all out." You're happy to go at that  
8036 point= ((laughter))

8037 Andrei: =No (.) absolutely. ((laughter))

8038 Henry: Oh (.) that's great stuff. Some of these questions you're already answering  
8039 then (.) because I suppose I've got a bit of an order to them all (.) even  
8040 though it's quite (.)

8041 Andrei: No worries.

8042 Henry: Could you describe a little bit about after you settled in and you found your  
8043 feet a bit more? How you've got to where you are now then? You say you  
8044 were near Barnsley when you first arrived. Is that right?=  
8045 Andrei: =Well (.) no. I was working there (.) but I was living in Shiregreen then=  
8046 Henry: =So you've moved around a bit before coming to Sheffield then?=  
8047 Andrei: =((place)) (.) ((place)) (.) and then now I live in ((place)) (.) in a really nice  
8048 place. So (.) seven months of window cleaning (.) and that stuff (.) and then  
8049 as soon as the papers came through (.) My wife back then was working at  
8050 (.) PC World was part of Dixons Stores Group (.) so PC World (.) the Link  
8051 (.) if you remember the mobile phone company. Mind you (.) you might be  
8052 a big young.

8053 Henry: No (.) I don't remember that.

8054 Andrei: The Link (.) Dixons (.) and there was Currys (.) and there was another one  
8055 (.) but all four of them were one company (.) the Dixons Stores Group. She  
8056 was working in their insurance department (.) for people taking extra  
8057 insurance for the appliances that they buy (.) a bit like what they try to sell  
8058 you at Argos.

8059 Henry: Yes. I think they call it Knowhow now at Currys. ((laughter))

8060 Andrei: Yes (.) exactly. So she was working there (.) and she said (.) "Well (.)  
8061 they've got a technical department" (.) and I had started tinkering with a  
8062 computer. While I was window cleaning I bought myself a Tiny computer.  
8063 Again (.) you won't remember that. Tiny were some of the first computers  
8064 sold in the UK (.) PCs that you could buy at home. I bought a Tiny  
8065 computer (.) and I started tinkering with it at home (.) and obviously taking  
8066 it apart straight away (.) find out how it's put together (.) put it back  
8067 together. I was like (.) "Oh (.) that was pretty easy." So the first day I got  
8068 my papers I said (.) "Why don't I apply for this technical department?" I  
8069 went for an interview. I was straight in. They took me on. I've learnt all my  
8070 stuff and all my geekiness there (.) because everybody who was there was a  
8071 technical geek. They had LAN parties. Do you know what they are?

8072 Henry: Where people come and bring their PCs in?

8073 Andrei: Yes (.) because back then we had modems. Have you ever seen a modem?  
8074 ((laughter))

8075 Henry: A modem?

8076 Andrei: Yes (.) basically you had to dial for the internet (.) and it would make like a  
8077 fax sound (.) dial-up. You got a 56k per second transfer speed. We were  
8078 gathering together to have these LAN parties (.) and obviously I was  
8079 surrounded by English people. I didn't spend any time with Romanians.  
8080 Because I think I was the only Romanian in Sheffield (.) for a year at least  
8081 (.) until ((name removed)) arrived. Maybe you have met people who have  
8082 been here longer (.) but I don't think there are. Yes (.) I did that for PC  
8083 World. I worked there for two years. They made us redundant (.) because  
8084 they found a cheaper building somewhere else in Nottingham. Then I  
8085 started working for William Hill (.) the bookies (.) because I spoke all the  
8086 languages (.) and I was technical. They wanted somebody that can answer  
8087 when people ring up (.) "I forgot my password" (.) or (.) "My computer  
8088 doesn't install this software (.)" and that kind of stuff. Because they've got  
8089 all this casino and arcade stuff online.

8090 Henry: Yes.

8091 Andrei: Then they had an opening in Leeds as a software tester for the newer  
8092 software they were putting out. I did that for a bit. I came back to Sheffield  
8093 (.) worked as a senior ((title)) for ((name)) (.) which do ((removed))  
8094 software. See (.) again (.) that language connection. So I was getting in with  
8095 the technical bit (.) but what I had that others didn't have was the  
8096 languages. After that I worked for the NHS. I was making the spying  
8097 database (.) so that if you break your neck in Scotland they know who you  
8098 are in London. The UK hasn't got one of these still. Uzbekistan has one (.)  
8099 but Britain hasn't. So what happened in Britain (.) the government gave  
8100 money to the local authorities (.) and each of these hired a software  
8101 company to make them a piece of software to do their bits. Now you have  
8102 20 (.)000 pieces of software (.) which does pretty much the same thing (.)  
8103 but they don't talk to each other.

8104 Henry: Yes.

8105 Andrei: I was working building that for the NHS. Then I started at ((name  
8106 removed)) (.) and I've been there for seven years.

8107 Henry: So there is sort of a gradual slight change in the roles you're doing. It's all  
8108 sort of coming together as you go along (.) isn't it?

8109 Andrei: Absolutely. Considering I think I'm one of the few in Autodesk who is not a  
8110 graduate. I don't have a qualification. That's by no means motivation to  
8111 come and do the course that I'm doing (.) because I'm already doing really  
8112 well.

8113 Henry: Yes. As you say (.) you're doing it because you want to.

8114 Andrei: Yes (.) it was gradual. It was learning on the job. I had my wits about me.  
8115 Yes (.) that's how it happened (.) professionally.

8116 Henry: I wondered whether it's one of these jobs that you're doing now that if you  
8117 applied for it again you might not have the degree that they say is essential  
8118 (.) and might not even get it. That's the irony sometimes nowadays. You get

8119 people that are in the job that they're in (.) they've change the spec so many  
8120 times. ((laughter))

8121 Andrei: The way it works in the software sector is the biggest question is what can  
8122 you do rather than you have studied.

8123 Henry: They are still more sort of old-fashioned on the skill side=

8124 Andrei: =Well (.) yes. We have a graduate programme (.) which I manage at ((name  
8125 removed)). I employ graduates every year. I have somebody from Hallam  
8126 working for me now (.) actually (.) and I'm just about to employ two more.  
8127 Yes (.) we have graduates (.) in which they come in their gap year (.) and  
8128 they're learning the job (.) and all that stuff (.) but we don't (.) well (.) we  
8129 look at their CV. When we hire permanent staff we don't really care if they  
8130 have been to university or not. If the guy has been working for (.) I don't  
8131 know (.) ((name removed)) for six years (.) and he's doing the job (.) he's in  
8132 providing he's not an arsehole.

8133 Henry: Yes.

8134 Andrei: You can't come to Autodesk (.) or you can't come to me to employ you and  
8135 say (.) "Well (.) I've just been to university for four years. Give me a job."  
8136 Because I will say (.) "Because you got drunk for the past four years you  
8137 want me to give you a chance" ((laughter)) Yes (.) you have to sort of prove  
8138 yourself. I don't know whether that's changed at all in the UK. I never had  
8139 a problem (.) "Oh (.) we can't take you on because you haven't been to  
8140 university." It never happened.

8141 Henry: I suppose (.) at least in my experience (.) the general consensus when  
8142 people are talking about looking for jobs (.) the thing that most often turns  
8143 them away is just they simply don't tick the essential boxes. It's all  
8144 extremely stringent. But I suppose with the techie jobs they want someone  
8145 who can just get down and just do it.

8146 Andrei: Be a nice guy. Because I'm looking at your mug all day. You could be a  
8147 really skilled guy (.) but if you're an arsehole you're not getting in. I would  
8148 rather take a guy who was eager to learn but is a nice guy. Because it's not  
8149 my company (.) first of all (.) and secondly I have to work with you (.) not  
8150 my bosses. So if I don't like you then (.) That's the biggest thing for me  
8151 when I employ people (.) how much I like you. ((laughter)) Yes (.) you said  
8152 ticking all the boxes. That might happen in other professions. I don't think  
8153 you can profess as a psychologist if you haven't been to university. It's not  
8154 something you learn on the job. You have to ((laughter))=

8155 Henry: =At least in a higher education sort of context (.) yes (.) there are some  
8156 things you have to have (.) but generally it's still more on the side of the  
8157 traditional? That you can do this (.) you can do that (.) in a vague way (.)  
8158 rather than?

8159 Andrei: Yes.

8160 Henry: It's interesting stuff. In that sense (.) from what I'm getting (.) I mean we  
8161 can move on to how you experience life here now (.) when you're seeing

8162 Romanian migration on the news. How do you feel about the way that's  
8163 represented (.) or about?

8164 Andrei: It's a bit of a mystery (.) which I'm really busting my arse to try to  
8165 understand. What's this affliction to Romanians in particular? They even  
8166 get mentioned more than Bulgarians.

8167 Henry: Yes.

8168 Andrei: First of all (.) obviously we have the Roma problem (.) which you probably  
8169 have had mentioned in all the interviews. I don't know if you know much  
8170 about how the Roma came to Romania and all that stuff?

8171 Henry: How they came initially? No.

8172 Andrei: We're talking 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century. These guys were from Uttar Pradesh and  
8173 from the northern states of India. I'm even ashamed to say this (.) but they  
8174 were in a caste (.) because they have the caste system there still. They were  
8175 called the Dalits (.) which means the untouchable (.) but the untouchable in  
8176 the sense that they are so low seen that you don't even want to touch them.  
8177 They came and they travelled through Asia into Africa (.) and then by the  
8178 time they got to Greece do you know what the Greeks called them?  
8179 Egyptians (.) because they came from Egypt. That's where they got the  
8180 'gypsy' name.

8181 Henry: Right. Is it just a simple translation thing that it just became=

8182 Andrei: =Yes (.) so it's Egyptians (.) and we started calling them gypsies now (.)  
8183 but obviously they came in through the south in Romania. In Romania they  
8184 flourished (.) because Ceausescu had this plan of growing his population as  
8185 much as he could. He was offering free citizenship to South Americans. So  
8186 the gypsies were getting benefits. The more kids you have the better. He  
8187 was giving them all the shitty jobs (.) like cleaning and all that stuff. After  
8188 the fall of Ceausescu now they had Romanian passports (.) so they started  
8189 doing what they've been doing for centuries (.) started travelling again (.)  
8190 and going to other countries. They're happy to just pick up all their stuff and  
8191 just go and move to France. But (.) like I said (.) this time with a Romanian  
8192 passport. The first people that left the country (.) the first people who do  
8193 anything shocking in the news (.) are going to be the gypsies. I'm totally  
8194 sympathetic that somebody in Sweden must think that (.) "Oh (.) my God.  
8195 All the Romanians I've met are brown-skinned (.) with long flowery dresses  
8196 (.) and they all beg. So yes (.) all Romanians must be gypsies." You have  
8197 the other thing with Roma and Romania. Nobody thinks that Roma could  
8198 come from the Roman Empire or definitely it's a Roman's language (.)  
8199 which is what it is. Everybody associates Roma/Romania. "Oh (.) that's  
8200 where all the Romas are from." That obviously tarnishes our image a lot (.)  
8201 but you can't just blame gypsies for everything. Now (.) Britain is not  
8202 particularly alone in stigmatising Romanians. France deports a lot of  
8203 gypsies. I don't know if you've read about that.

8204 Henry: They're quite proud of their country in the way that treat minorities (.)  
8205 aren't they? ((laughter))

8206 Andrei: Before Romania went into the EU France was the biggest (.) most vocal  
8207 country to criticise Romania for the treatment of gypsies. Then when the  
8208 gypsies come to their country the first thing that they do is they deport  
8209 them. ((laughter)) So it's hypocrisy. Particularly when things turn bad (.)  
8210 and there's a downturn in terms of an economic downturn (.) always the  
8211 immigrants get it. "Oh (.) it's the fucking immigrants that come. It's not us  
8212 who don't want to work." It's not the blonde (.) blue-eyed Parson Cross  
8213 army (.) who just hang outside the Co-Op. No (.) it's clearly the Romanians  
8214 who come here and work.

8215 Henry: From what you were saying earlier it's a thing behind an unfortunate  
8216 merging of Roma and Romania (.) is part of the-

8217 Andrei: What's that film called with Jim Carrey? A Series of Unfortunate Events?  
8218 ((laughter)) You've got the Romas (.) and I recommend you go and search  
8219 on YouTube to see what the Romas do in Oslo. They poop in the street. If  
8220 you go to India (.) this is what happens in India. It's absolutely normal.  
8221 People just get to a corner (.) drop their pants (.) and they shit. This is what  
8222 the Romas do in Oslo dude. I've been to Oslo (.) just to look at architecture  
8223 with my girlfriend. I went for three days (.) and we saw the Romas (.) and  
8224 we were shocked. It was like (.) "Oh (.) my God. I bet when they arrest  
8225 them they show their Romanian passport." I was like (.) "There's no (.)"  
8226 Yes (.) obviously there are Romanians which are bad apples (.) and they do  
8227 crazy things. There are English people who do crazy things (.) and there are  
8228 Bulgarians and there are Germans who do crazy things. So there is still a bit  
8229 of mystery. I know the Roma have a big part in it (.) but I really don't  
8230 understand why (.) because the Bulgarians are Romas (.) and the Slovaks  
8231 are Romas. Although the latest scandal in is with Slovak Romas=

8232 Henry: =This is the thing (.) isn't it? ((laughter)) There does seem to be (.) from  
8233 what I see when I research this and look at it (.) Roma is a very vague  
8234 category. Essentially (.) it's a traveller. That's often what it means. So it  
8235 doesn't really have a nationality. Yet it's the word (.) isn't it (.) like you  
8236 were saying? It seems to relate back to a place (.) because it's sort of  
8237 paraphrasing Romania.

8238 Andrei: That thing is phenomenal.

8239 Henry: That's the thing (.) isn't it?

8240 Andrei: At one point one of the people in power in Romania had this project of to  
8241 change the name Roma to something else (.) just to call them something  
8242 different (.) just to shake that image off. A mayor in Romania actually  
8243 erected a wall between the gypsy neighbourhood and the rest of the city (.)  
8244 and he got in a lot of trouble for it. But I think it got to a point where they  
8245 were burgling all the places in town. If you had a block of flats then a Roma  
8246 family would move in (.) and make so much noise (.) and be so antisocial  
8247 (.) that everybody would start leaving. Then they would buy the flats  
8248 cheaper. And they have six or seven kids per family (.) no exception.  
8249 Because they were selling their kids off (.) you must have heard of this (.)  
8250 back in the 1990s.

8251 Henry: Yes (.) there's some pretty terrible stories that stick (.) don't they?

8252 Andrei: They stick (.) but quite a few of them were true. They were selling their  
8253 kids. They were making kids to sell and getting €200 or whatever for a  
8254 child. They have always been discriminated in Romania (.) there's no  
8255 question about it (.) discriminated anywhere in Europe where they've been.  
8256 Hitler wanted to erase them all. I think that's really bad (.) but I really don't  
8257 have a solution to it. I don't know what's going to happen. Because if they  
8258 haven't integrated in the past 300 years I don't know what we can do now  
8259 (.) as Europe (.) to sort this out.

8260 Henry: That's an interesting sort of=

8261 Andrei: =A different subject to study altogether (.) I guess.

8262 Henry: Well (.) it's all blurred (.) isn't it? And that's part of the problem (.) isn't it?  
8263 There's a sense of (.) from what you're saying (.) trying to differentiate the  
8264 different groups in Romania.

8265 Andrei: Any Romanian you will meet the first thing on the agenda would be  
8266 differentiating between gypsies and Romanians. This is our national  
8267 aspiration. It's that bad.

8268 Henry: In that sense (.) then (.) what we were saying earlier about-

8269 Andrei: It's racist. There's no question about it. It is (.) yes.

8270 Henry: The different areas of Romania (.) what you were saying to begin with (.)  
8271 about the Moldavian region (.) the Southern Danube region (.) and then  
8272 Transylvania. Is that something that you feel is shared across the different  
8273 regions? That's the Romania that combines everyone (.) in a way=

8274 Andrei: =Well (.) you've got to look at the voting results for the presidential  
8275 elections that we just had last year. Basically (.) Transylvania was all blue.  
8276 Then Moldova and Oltenia were all red. It's basically (.) if Romania looks a  
8277 bit like this (.) it's a bit like a fish (.) with the Black Sea here (.) Hungary  
8278 here (.) Britain around here somewhere. Transylvania is a bit like  
8279 surrounded by the Carpathians. Then you have Moldova on this side (.) and  
8280 then (.) These all voted for the Bucharest guy (.) and all Transylvania voted  
8281 for our own guy (.) who is German (.) by the way. Romanians voted a  
8282 German (.) and we have a German president now (.) with German-

8283 Henry: Which way round is it now? Is the blue the Conservative?

8284 Andrei: The red is the PSD (.) which is the Social Democrat Party.

8285 Henry: Yes.

8286 Andrei: It's the old gang of communists. ((laughter)) Then you have the other guys  
8287 (.) which are (.) This time we prevail somehow (.) but I think if you look at  
8288 the elections map that really will tell you what a conglomeration of nations  
8289 (.) which has got nothing to do with each other except for a common  
8290 language (.) Romania really is. ((laughter))

8291 Henry: It sounds like it's unified in the sense that they try and differentiate from the  
8292 Roma?

8293 Andrei: Yes (.) absolutely. Everybody feels exactly the same about the Roma (.)  
8294 yes.

8295 Henry: It's a strong thing (.) isn't it? It's interesting the commonalities you were  
8296 drawing with the UK (.) and the way that you've got Wales (.) Scotland (.)  
8297 England. It's the same sort of issue (.) in the sense it's divided (.) but then  
8298 the notion that we think (.) Well (.) I suppose there's a similar case here (.)  
8299 because there are Irish travellers that have a presence here.

8300 Andrei: We're risking talking ethnicity here and stuff (.) but I'm Romanian (.) my  
8301 girlfriend is Romanian (.) the people you have met are Romanian (.) white  
8302 (.) fair-skinned. As it happens (.) the Roma population (.) obviously because  
8303 they're descendant from an Indian nation (.) they have darker skin. So I  
8304 don't think the Irish (.) What I'm trying to say is I don't think the Irish  
8305 travellers are the same with Indian Roma. They're just people who travel by  
8306 choice. Again (.) like I say (.) it's very blurry.

8307 Henry: It is (.) but the sense that how it's been appropriated in the media (.) in the  
8308 public debate (.) it seems to have (.) I don't know. You've already talked  
8309 about it to some extent (.) but there seems to be an underlying sense that  
8310 these things are all merged together (.) and they shouldn't be. They should  
8311 be clearly separated.

8312 Andrei: Absolutely (.) yes. Romanians are not racist. They don't have an issue with  
8313 the gypsies because they have a different colour and stuff like that. It's the  
8314 actual culture that they've got a problem with. Particularly it's just got  
8315 worse from entrance into the European Union (.) and the gypsies going  
8316 everywhere. Every time you read the news in Romania two Romanians  
8317 arrested over there (.) and from the name you can tell straight away that  
8318 they're ethnic Romas (.) because their names are quite different than  
8319 Romanian names. Maybe once a year we hear that some guy with a  
8320 Romanian name has done something stupid (.) but 90% of the time it's just  
8321 (.) I don't know. Maybe the Romanian media also presents it in that way (.)  
8322 but whenever you look on the BBC (.) with the guys who were trafficking  
8323 that woman (.) and all that stuff (.) they're all Romas. Romanians have a  
8324 major problem. We just don't know what to do. ((laughter)) We don't know  
8325 what to do to say that we're Europeans like everyone. We're like the  
8326 Hungarians and the Germans and stuff. It's very tough.

8327 Henry: I suppose it's the same issue with this recent programme on Channel 4 (.)  
8328 The Romanians are Coming.

8329 Andrei: Yes. You saw=

8330 Henry: =It's the same sort of issue that you're talking about (.) isn't it?

8331 Andrei: Absolutely (.) yes.

8332 Henry: I think most if not all that appeared have an identification at least with  
8333 Roma. I've only seen it the once (.) but I remember Alex (.) the street  
8334 cleaner (.) in Canada. I don't think he was a Roma (.) was he?

8335 Andrei: Oh (.) no. The guy who was doing all the commentary?



8336 Henry: Not that chap. He was from Canada (.) and he was street cleaning at one  
8337 point. I think he worked with some travellers here at one point. He was in a  
8338 caravan.

8339 Andrei: Right (.) okay. Fair enough.

8340 Henry: It was maybe one or two. But it's interesting because they weren't  
8341 differentiating these things.

8342 Andrei: Yes (.) but they will never make a documentary about me or about ((name  
8343 removed)) or (name removed)). People don't want to see that in the news.  
8344 People feel better sitting in their living room looking at other people who  
8345 are worse off than they are. That's what sells. Let's just make a  
8346 documentary about the success story of ((Andrei)). It would probably be  
8347 quite interesting with all my travels and stuff (.) and a reconstruction of all  
8348 the shit I've been through. It would probably be quite interesting (.) but it  
8349 wouldn't give you that feeling that (.) "Oh (.) someone else is doing a lot  
8350 worse" (.) and make you feel bad about it. Bad news.

8351 Henry: There's an unfortunate thing with this sort of tie between what sells (.) and  
8352 the money side of it (.) and what's popular (.) and what people want to see  
8353 (.) and what people should see.

8354 Andrei: Absolutely. All my friends that know me (.) and everybody who ever  
8355 worked with Romanians and stuff (.) I've never heard them saying anything  
8356 bad (.) and I had some quite frank conversations. So in that way I'm happy.  
8357 I know that if you get to meet Romanians your opinion compared to what  
8358 you see on TV is going to be like 180 degrees (.) I'm sure. I don't want to  
8359 put words into your mouth (.) but did you expect to meet these kinds of  
8360 people when you thought you were going to meet the Romanians? Or did  
8361 you expect to see the guys you saw on TV?

8362 Henry: Oh (.) I didn't expect that (.) no. ((laughter)) To be honest (.) I've tried to  
8363 shelve my expectations (.) because part of the problem sometimes is you  
8364 can go in and (.) This is part of the challenge for me. I'm trying to be neutral  
8365 (.) but then undoubtedly there are things that (.)

8366 Andrei: Yes. You are human. Of course.

8367 Henry: Exactly. Bias. ((laughter))

8368 Andrei: You will react. No (.) absolutely. You react.

8369 Henry: We were talking about Roma and Romanian earlier. I was wondering how  
8370 you feel about the way that Romania and Bulgaria has been put together.  
8371 Obviously with the recent accession you can understand that they have (.)

8372 Andrei: Yes (.) there's an association through that (.) yes.

8373 Henry: Is there anything else that when you hear it talked about=

8374 Andrei: =Bulgaria is quite a small country compared to Romania. There's about six  
8375 million. Basically you just get Mercedes coming in (.) and they buy Lada (.)  
8376 and everybody has a job. Romania is huge. There are twenty-three million  
8377 of us. I think the way we were put together is because of the coincidental

8378 entry into the EU. Funnily enough (.) there was a programme on the BBC  
8379 where they were showing Bulgaria and Romania (.) and they had the flags  
8380 swapped. Have you seen that one? It was so funny. They had a map of  
8381 Romania (.) but with the Bulgarian flag over it ((laughter))

8382 Henry: Researchers are obviously doing a good job (.) aren't they?

8383 Andrei: Exactly. I think Bulgaria is bundled in with Romania so that we don't look  
8384 like we're just bitching about one country in particular. I don't know. In the  
8385 Second World War there were some goings-on. Obviously we fought with  
8386 the Germans (.) because we had Andrei. Hitler came in and said (.) "Right  
8387 (.) can I just cross over to go and screw the Russians" (.) and Romania was  
8388 like (.) "Yes (.) absolutely cool." By the time he was there it was like (.)  
8389 "Right (.) I'm here now. You guys are fighting with me against the  
8390 Russians." Romanians were like (.) "Alright then." Then towards the end of  
8391 the war (.) when Hitler started losing (.) then the Russians came in (.) and  
8392 they made Romanians fight the Germans. So we have this swinging image  
8393 as well. Which was one of the reasons why we weren't accepted into  
8394 NATO back in 1998 when we were candidates (.) because (.) "Oh (.) you  
8395 guys are switchy." We were like (.) "God (.) we had no choice." "Yes (.)  
8396 okay. No Hitler. Come on." ((laughter))

8397 Henry: It's interesting. You show that France (.) for example (.) that was occupied.  
8398 There are interesting parallels (.) isn't there?

8399 Andrei: Have you been to France?

8400 Henry: A few times (.) yes.

8401 Andrei: The first thing I notice as an architecture student is that all their churches  
8402 everything is intact. ((laughter)) Because there wasn't a bomb there. Do you  
8403 know what I mean? The Romanians are making a joke on the TV now  
8404 saying that (.) "Putin is threatening to enter Ukraine. France has already  
8405 surrendered." ((laughter))

8406 Henry: It's funny (.) because there is a similar view here (.) as well (.) isn't there?  
8407 They just let everything happen to them. ((laughter))

8408 Andrei: "Okay (.) cool (.) fine."

8409 Henry: Yes (.) and they have to develop these national myths or stories about how  
8410 they resisted the occupation.

8411 Andrei: I don't think the British public is that well-informed as to feel resentful  
8412 towards Romanians because they fought on the side of Hitler at one point.  
8413 I'm scouring all the possibilities (.) and I'm trying to explain it as much as  
8414 you are (.) and when you find out you have to let me know (.) because I  
8415 don't know what the reason is. Why they have been put together is I think  
8416 purely because they coincide in entering the EU (.) and the same economic  
8417 level (.) that kind of stuff.

8418 Henry: Well (.) you will know far more about all this sort of stuff than me (.) but  
8419 something that I have come across when I've been doing this research is  
8420 something (.) is it the Tomesco report? I think about six/seven years ago it

8421 was published (.) to try and document (.) not even explore. It was to try and  
8422 analyse the events that happened during the Communist era.

8423 Andrei: I don't think I've heard about it.

8424 Henry: It was commissioned by the Romanian president (.) and various different  
8425 academics (.) and people that were involved either against the regime at the  
8426 time or people that were living elsewhere in exile. They were trying to look  
8427 at things that happened. Anyway (.) from what I've read about this it's  
8428 trying to create a new version of what happened during that time (.) and  
8429 trying to basically bring Romania into the 21<sup>st</sup> century (.) and portray it in a  
8430 different way (.) I suppose (.) rather than just this baddie thing (.) like what  
8431 you were saying.

8432 Andrei: Yes.

8433 Henry: The impression I'm getting is that there is a sense that they're trying to move  
8434 towards a different=

8435 Andrei: =Romanians are desperate to improve their image. Seriously. They are  
8436 totally pro-Europeans. There's no resentment towards the EU or anything  
8437 like that. But we keep getting all this bashing in the media. Romanians at  
8438 one point are just going to say (.) "Well (.) do you know what?" It's so  
8439 unfounded (.) most of the accusations that Romanians are going to come  
8440 and invade. They didn't. So all that shit that went on. Then you've got a  
8441 muppet like Farage and stuff. A Frenchman married to a German woman as  
8442 a British Nationalist. Seriously (.) he's just=

8443 Henry: =Yes.

8444 Andrei: You laugh about it for a while (.) but after a while it gets serious when you  
8445 have all these impressions. What I do hope (.) and what I've seen anyway (.)  
8446 is that people which I value their opinion (.) and people who actually count  
8447 (.) they don't believe what they see on TV. Yes (.) when it's going to come  
8448 to the EU vote of stay in or out everybody has a vote (.) and if the whatever  
8449 I want to call them come out and vote as well then I don't know. It's a  
8450 tough one. Personally (.) I don't really care. I don't want to die in Britain. I  
8451 just want to come here (.) finish my university maybe. When the job  
8452 finishes for Autodesk I will probably move to Scandinavia or somewhere  
8453 like that. Or move back home. I'm seriously considering that. Yes (.) I think  
8454 it would be a missed opportunity to get Britain out of the EU and lose all  
8455 that trade. Because that's the beauty of living in Europe. Half an hour on  
8456 the plane and you're eating sausages with pretzels. I think it's such a pity to  
8457 (.) Anyway (.) ((laughter))

8458 Henry: Yes (.) sorry. A really interesting reflection there. What is making you think  
8459 at the moment about moving to Scandinavia or back to Romania then? Is it  
8460 the stuff like we're talking about (.) all the negativity?=-

8461 Andrei: =It doesn't faze me at all. Like I said (.) whatever is on TV is a different  
8462 reality than what's around you (.) of course. All my friends that I know love  
8463 me. My employers love me. I never actually (.) and I wanted to tell you this  
8464 (.) that I've never felt discriminated at all in England (.) either

8465 professionally or in any (.) I never felt like I was disadvantaged because I  
 8466 was Romanian. The only slight bit of doubt that I have is when I bumped  
 8467 into somebody at traffic lights. I was on my way to work (.) as it happens (.)  
 8468 and I was rushing because I was late. It was a bump. Then I gave a  
 8469 statement and I said (.) “Yes (.) absolutely my fault” (.) all that stuff (.) no  
 8470 argument. He said (.) “Yes (.) well (.) it was quite a steep road.” Towards (.)  
 8471 I was working for the NHS back then. It was a terrible rainy day (.) and I  
 8472 tried to brake (.) couldn’t in time. It’s just this traffic light right in the  
 8473 middle of the road. I should have known that anyway. Still I accept total  
 8474 guilt. My fault. But I got a £200 fine (.) and five points off my licence (.)  
 8475 and I got taken to court. That policewoman who interviewed me must have  
 8476 not liked me accent at all (.) because I can’t really (.) It wasn’t like she had  
 8477 to make an example to anybody. This was just a bump. You bump people at  
 8478 traffic lights. That’s what happens. Yes (.) that’s the only time (.) where she  
 8479 either had a very bad day or she didn’t like my accent (.) but I’ve got  
 8480 absolutely no proof to think that in any way she just wanted to do me  
 8481 because I’m Romanian. Other than that I never felt discriminated or pushed  
 8482 aside. I don’t know. Maybe people are scared of me (.) because I’ve got a  
 8483 big gob. If you have a conversation with me (.) and try to put me down (.) I  
 8484 will probably make you cry (.) in that sense (.) because I’ve got arguments  
 8485 and stuff. ((laughter)) Yes (.) but the bashing on TV is relentless (.) and in  
 8486 the newspapers and stuff.

8487 Henry: It must at times feel a bit surreal then (.) from what you’re saying (.) if  
 8488 you’ve not had (.) apart from what you were saying with obviously that  
 8489 time in the traffic lights (.) any negative experiences with employers or  
 8490 people you’ve worked with (.) because they know you.

8491 Andrei: This is what makes me optimistic to think that people don’t really pay that  
 8492 much attention. People that count anyway. I don’t know. If I was to go and  
 8493 grab a job in a warehouse with Ryan (.) maybe they will talk behind my  
 8494 back. “This Romanian is coming here to steal our jobs.” ((laughter)) In my  
 8495 profession nobody ever made me feel like I’m taking some English person’s  
 8496 place.

8497 Henry: I think there is optimism to be had. Even on that strange documentary (.) I  
 8498 call it a documentary (.) whatever it is (.) on Channel 4. Some of what’s  
 8499 being said is rather ironic. They talk about (.) “Yes (.) we’re taking jobs.  
 8500 We’re taking the crap jobs.” ((laughter))

8501 Andrei: This is=

8502 Henry: =It’s like what you were saying when you first arrived (.) trying to just  
 8503 make ends meet. It’s nothing to do with any agenda or statistics=

8504 Andrei: =This is what my mate Raoul was saying. He wrote an open letter to  
 8505 Channel 4 to thank them for actually (.) although they were trying to show  
 8506 the worst of the worst (.) still the only people that they could find were  
 8507 people that were actually trying to work. ((laughter)) It’s unreal.

8508 Henry: Yes (.) that spirit. Even if it’s sleeping in car parks they are willing to go  
 8509 through that horrible experience.

8510 Andrei: Yes. Just to get the job=

8511 Henry: =Yes (.) and it was just so profound. I think it was in the first one they talk  
8512 about the car park (.) and (.) “We’ve got sleeping bags in that electric box”  
8513 (.) and they say (.) “This is the plug (.) and we’ve got a tap for water” (.)  
8514 and that’s what they need. And there’s a sense of being really humble with  
8515 what they’ve got. ((laughter))

8516 Andrei: I think we live in a very sick society (.) in which people who want to work  
8517 are stigmatised (.) but the bastards who stay on benefits (.) and don’t want  
8518 to do anything (.) are actually fine. Oh (.) our poor Parson Cross gang of  
8519 17-year-olds. They can’t find a job clearly because ((Andrei)) has taken  
8520 their job as a principal SQ engineer at Autodesk. It’s crazy.

8521 Henry: I suppose we will move on to a more (.) it’s a more abstract question really.  
8522 It’s a difficult question to answer (.) and it’s something that I ponder on  
8523 daily (.) so don’t think there is a definitive answer (.) but you talked initially  
8524 about when you moved to Spain or Tenerife (.) and then you’ve enjoyed a  
8525 lot of travelling.

8526 Andrei: I was a hippie. Absolutely (.) yes. A free spirit. Loads of drugs. ((laughter))

8527 Henry: Even though I suppose in the sense that it was quite informal (.) obviously  
8528 (.) the documentation side of it. It wasn’t official. It was just you going for  
8529 it (.) and doing what you wanted as and when you wanted (.) really (.)  
8530 wasn’t it?

8531 Andrei: Yes (.) I didn’t know where I was going. Most Romanians when they go  
8532 and travel to work in another country have something set up over there (.)  
8533 either some other family who has got a job for them or some old mate. I just  
8534 hitchhiked. I didn’t know where I was going. I ended up in Valencia (.) on  
8535 the beach (.) and after sitting an hour and looking at the sea (.) that’s when I  
8536 started crying. I had a really good cry (.) because I was like (.) “Now (.)  
8537 where am I going now? Because this is the edge of the world.”

8538 Henry: Wow. So it was overlooking the Mediterranean (.) and=

8539 Andrei: =That’s when it kicked in. I was like (.) “I’m actually here. Now what do I  
8540 do?”

8541 Henry: “What do I do?” And that’s as (.) what (.) an 18/19-year-old?

8542 Andrei: This is another thing that haunts me all the time (.) is what the hell was I  
8543 thinking? It doesn’t matter how young you are (.) if you’re five-years-old.  
8544 “I’m going to a particular place (.) so that I can do that.” Not for a second it  
8545 occurred to me (.) “What will I do when I get there?” Still today I don’t  
8546 understand why I didn’t ask myself that question. So the first thing I did is I  
8547 got my guitar out (.) started playing (.) made my (.)

8548 Henry: It’s an interesting comparison (.) then. Because it sounds like you wouldn’t  
8549 do it again now (.) knowing there’s (.)

8550 Andrei: Well (.) if I had to I would probably do it.

8551 Henry: Would you?

8552 Andrei: Absolutely. People I met on the road (.) people who were PhDs (.) and  
8553 doctors (.) and engineers (.) who decided to pack it in and just go travelling.  
8554 Some of them made little bracelets (.) and rings (.) and jewellery (.) and  
8555 they sell them for €1. Some of them have some money in the bank (.) and  
8556 they just live very frugally. People go mad (.) and particularly people like  
8557 us (.) intellectuals (.) are prone to (.) It's worse than a midlife crisis. You  
8558 just decide (.) "Okay (.) that's it. I can't do it anymore. I'm just going to go  
8559 and travel around the world." I know people who do cycling around the  
8560 world. I know people who left everything (.) just went and did a self-build  
8561 (.) and then got out of the rat race. Yes (.) I could probably do it again if I  
8562 had to. I would do it again if I wanted to. I'm not scared of it. Some of it  
8563 was crazy (.) but I was in a very bad situation. I was young. I didn't have  
8564 any money. I was illegal. Yes (.) there would be none of that now. If I did it  
8565 (.) it would be more in a balanced way. ((laughter))

8566 Henry: I suppose the question I was getting at was even though obviously from  
8567 what you were describing it was a very unique situation (.) as to what  
8568 motivated you there (.) but nonetheless it was a good time?

8569 Andrei: Absolutely it was. I wouldn't take anything back. I think it made me the  
8570 man that I am today. You hear that being said all the time (.) but like I said  
8571 (.) when I was a kid I was on a cloud (.) so that really grounded me. All the  
8572 need and the hardship really grounded me.

8573 Henry: Is that (.) in your view (.) a price worth paying for the sorts of people that  
8574 might abuse that ability to move around and take advantage of other  
8575 people? Is it a right that?

8576 Andrei: It's two different things (.) isn't it (.) really?

8577 Henry: Because of course we can all move freely anyway now (.) can't we? We  
8578 don't have to worry about any of the visa stuff.

8579 Andrei: Well (.) I sometimes go back to Romania (.) and I go to my hometown (.)  
8580 and there's this kid who doesn't like to go to school. He will sit down with  
8581 me (.) and he will have a beer (.) and he will say (.) "Oh (.) man (.) you  
8582 need to tell me how you did it. Because I really fancy going and working in  
8583 another country. Make some money. Come back. Open a business." That  
8584 kind of stuff. Because there's still that wage gap (.) obviously. They cry in  
8585 desperation (.) "Tell me how you have done it. Was it hard?" All that stuff.  
8586 I'm thinking (.) "Dude (.) whatever I tell you now is not going to make any  
8587 sense to you. It's certainly not (.)" Oh (.) is somebody waiting for this? No  
8588 (.) I don't think so=

8589 Henry: =No (.) I don't think so.

8590 Andrei: I said (.) "It's not going to be applicable to you. Because when I came I had  
8591 three days left on my visa. You come with a Romanian ID card (.) and you  
8592 don't even show it to the border guy. You just slap him across the face with  
8593 it. You've got a right to work (.) and you've got a right to do anything." I'm  
8594 not sure whether that answers it. Can you ask the question again? =

8595 Henry: =Yes (.) well (.) I was asking about whether you feel like the ability to  
8596 move around is worth the price. You can end up getting some people that  
8597 abuse that movement.

8598 Andrei: Oh (.) right (.) okay. In balance?

8599 Henry: It's that ultimate freedom (.) really (.) isn't it?

8600 Andrei: I think the ability to move around and do whatever you want is priceless.  
8601 Romania in total I think has something like two million Romas or  
8602 something. I don't know what the population of Europe is. I suspect=

8603 Henry: =I think it's nearly half a billion (.) something like that.

8604 Andrei: I think the numbers have the answer. Of course it's worth it. What I will  
8605 add is I think that the British benefits system needs fixing badly. I think the  
8606 problem is not the free movement. I think the problem is what attracts  
8607 people to come and actually stay on benefits. Most of the Romanians I  
8608 know (.) none of them stays on benefits. Most people come here to work. I  
8609 have not met any Romanian yet who says (.) "Oh (.) I'm just sitting at home  
8610 and getting money." I met a Polish guy who did that (.) and we stopped  
8611 being friends. Because he's getting my money as well (.) because I'm  
8612 paying tax.

8613 Henry: Like you said earlier (.) nowadays you feel like you would wring?

8614 Andrei: Absolutely (.) yes. From the moment I started paying tax I started asking  
8615 questions. "Why am I paying tax for that?" "((Andrei)) (.) because  
8616 everybody pays it. You're in Britain." I was like (.) "No. The Brits have that  
8617 thing that they just accept things (.) just because everybody else is doing it  
8618 (.) but I like to question everything. If I'm going to pay my money towards  
8619 something I like to know what's being done with it. And I got the tax office  
8620 to send me a breakdown on how they spend my tax money (.) because I just  
8621 wanted to see.

8622 Henry: That must have been quite a good feeling (.) to get the response back (.) and  
8623 to sort of like?

8624 Andrei: Yes. I wasn't very pleased with the result (.) because I think out of (.) well  
8625 (.) I earn in excess of £60 (.)000 (.) and I think my tax is roughly about half  
8626 of that a year (.) because I'm in the 40% band. I just get trashed=

8627 Henry: =Yes (.) 40% band (.) and then NI on top of it.

8628 Andrei: Yes (.) so I think something like £15 (.)000 of my money a year is given for  
8629 people on benefits and that kind of stuff. There's another guy at the end of  
8630 my road. Both him and his wife are just overweight (.) and they don't work.  
8631 I think a house which is worth something like £150 (.)000. They must have  
8632 put £300 (.)000 or £400 (.)000 worth of equipment in the house (.) elevators  
8633 (.) and lifts (.) and that kind of stuff. I've got a serious problem with people  
8634 who don't want to work and pull their weight. I've got a problem with that  
8635 at work. I'm very German in that sense. I'm totally allergic to people who  
8636 actually are not pulling their weight. I think the benefits system needs  
8637 fixing. Not just to stop attracting the small minute number of immigrants

8638 who come here and don't want to do anything (.) but to fix the British  
8639 problem that we have with people not wanting to do anything as well.  
8640 Because I think there are a lot more Brits which are refusing to work  
8641 compared to immigrants coming in. Even the fact that there's a debate  
8642 about forced labour in Britain I think is ludicrous. "Oh (.) you have to work  
8643 if you want to earn any more benefits." Of course you do. If it was me there  
8644 would be a concentration camp with an electric fence around it. Jesus.

8645 Henry: Yes. ((laughter))

8646 Andrei: I hope I never get into politics (.) because I would be absolutely ruthless.

8647 Henry: I can remember at one point they were saying you have to do a certain  
8648 amount of voluntary work a week to contribute something back (.) and the  
8649 response to that (.) the critique and why it has been left there (.) is they're  
8650 doing it for £2 an hour. "That's so wrong. They should do it for minimum  
8651 wage."

8652 Andrei: It's unbelievable. ((laughter))

8653 Henry: You think (.) "That's for charity. That's the point. It's not (.)" ((laughter))

8654 Andrei: There's that woman who sued the government because she had to work on  
8655 Poundland in order to keep receiving benefits. I was like (.) "Oh (.) my  
8656 God." Yes (.) I'm quite passionate. I always voted Labour (.) but I don't  
8657 know (.) now I'm more inclined (.) I don't think Labour have anything in  
8658 terms of fixing the benefits system. I think maybe the Conservatives are the  
8659 closest ones that I've seen something done about it. And I don't like the  
8660 Conservatives.

8661 Henry: No.

8662 Andrei: Cameron really scares me. I find him abysmal when I look at his face.

8663 Henry: They're all quite a depressing bunch (.) really (.) aren't they? ((laughter))

8664 Andrei: So does Ed Miliband. I saw him live. Live? Jesus. I saw him in real life  
8665 when I went to Manchester to do a course. It was just after the riots (.) and  
8666 Miliband was there sitting in the middle of people (.) and he was talking (.)  
8667 and I just looked (.) and it's like (.) "Oh (.) God. I wouldn't trust this guy  
8668 with a fiver." ((laughter)) Jesus.

8669 Henry: Yes. Not very much charisma. Then there's the whole bacon sandwich  
8670 thing (.) if you saw that.

8671 Andrei: Yes (.) and Farage I will probably just knock his lights out if I found him in  
8672 the pub (.) just for saying shit like (.) "Oh (.) I wouldn't want to move next  
8673 to a family of Romanians. Would you?" Oh (.) you little twat.

8674 Henry: No (.) I still can't believe=

8675 Andrei: =I would deck him straight away. So (.) yes (.) the benefits system needs  
8676 fixing in order to put an end to this excuse. "This is why we hate them.  
8677 Because they come here to claim benefits." No (.) they don't. Some of them  
8678 will do (.) a very small minute percentage (.) but most of them (.) There are



8679 400 (.)000 Brits living in Spain. When I lived in Tenerife there were a lot of  
8680 Brits which were on benefits.

8681 Henry: We just all go there to retire. That's the thing. And that's what a lot of  
8682 welfare goes towards. It goes towards pensions.

8683 Andrei: Yes (.) true.

8684 Henry: That's the irony of it all (.) isn't it? Some of these things are just so  
8685 remarkably confusing (.) aren't they?

8686 Andrei: I would never compromise freedom of movement for (.) I don't know (.)  
8687 let's go extreme (.) for the couple of millions of Europeans which move  
8688 around trying to skim off the system. I think it's not even=

8689 Henry: =You said earlier when you started paying tax that felt like quite a shift in  
8690 the way you saw living in the UK.

8691 Andrei: Yes (.) I feel I'm part of it. That's it now. I would have liked to pay tax from  
8692 day one (.) but it took them seven months to allow me (.) but yes (.) as soon  
8693 as I'm paying in money I like to know what I'm paying for.

8694 Henry: Do you identify with something like Britishness or being English?

8695 Andrei: Absolutely.

8696 Henry: You would?

8697 Andrei: Yes. The first time I realised that was (.) See (.) I went to Romania (.) and  
8698 sometimes I have discussions about politics with my mates (.) people who  
8699 are still there. They would come up with this problem (.) and I would have  
8700 an answer immediately (.) straight away. It's like (.) "Well (.) just sue  
8701 them." Or (.) "I will take him to court." "Oh (.) my boss just sacked me. I  
8702 will go to a work tribunal (.) sort it out." All my answers were British. No  
8703 matter how much Romanian I want to be and all that stuff. The first time I  
8704 walked into a bank was in Britain. The first time I was called Mr was in  
8705 Britain. The first time somebody gave me a mortgage was in Britain. My  
8706 whole value system (.) my economical system (.) my social system (.) is  
8707 British. There's no question about it. I've got this affinity to Romanian stuff  
8708 (.) but I think in a couple of years' time I would have lived longer in Britain  
8709 than I lived in my home country (.) so Basically I understand the idea in the  
8710 media that immigration my value system is totally British (.) I think (.) in  
8711 my head.

8712 Henry: And it's tied to (.) like you say (.) those experiences of doing stuff for the  
8713 first time as an adult (.) and being part of something?

8714 Andrei: Oh (.) yes. Growing up completely on your own (.) no parents (.) nothing (.)  
8715 no support. Nobody ever gave me anything for free in my life. Everything I  
8716 got. I came here with a plastic bag (.) basically. It's all happened here. I'm  
8717 completely grateful for that (.) being given the opportunity. The funny bit  
8718 was when I became British. I never wanted to do it (.) because I just felt  
8719 like=

8720 Henry: =You applied for citizenship?

8721 Andrei: Yes. The first time I came to Britain (.) back in 2000 (.) a woman turned up  
8722 at my house with a laptop (.) doing the green card kind of thing (.) and she  
8723 asked me all these questions. "What was the airline that you arrived with?"  
8724 All that rubbish. She says (.) "Anyway (.) let's move on to the next section.  
8725 This is about your future British citizenship." I was like (.) "I'm not  
8726 interested. I'm probably going to just stay Romanian." She did not have a  
8727 box for that. She did not have an answer. It was like (.) "What do you  
8728 mean?" I was like (.) "I'm really not interested. What would it give me?" "I  
8729 don't know." I said (.) "Well (.) tell me (.) what would it give me?" She  
8730 said (.) "Well (.) you can join the Army (.) and you can vote." I was like (.)  
8731 "Oh. The number of nights I stayed awake because I can't vote I can't tell  
8732 you." ((laughter)) I was like (.) "No (.) I will pay my taxes (.) and it's fine. I  
8733 don't need to do it." So (.) although I could have been British 14 years ago  
8734 (.) it's only how long ago? I think I did it in 2012. I will tell you the reason  
8735 why I did it. A pension guy comes into work. We all pay into a private  
8736 pension (.) loads of money. And the guy explained to us that we also pay a  
8737 state pension. What you can do (.) you can ring the tax office and ask the  
8738 tax office to allow for the money that you pay in the state pension to be  
8739 invested privately (.) by your private company. That was the rule at the  
8740 time. I thought (.) "That's fantastic." Because the pension that I've got at  
8741 work allows me to go and choose the funds where it gets invested. So (.)  
8742 rather than I pay in a pension (.) and it's going to be fine (.) you go and  
8743 choose. You track which fund is making money (.) which one has a higher  
8744 fee (.) etc. etc. I was like (.) "It would be great to be in control of my  
8745 pension money (.) how it's invested." I ring them up (.) and I say (.) "Well  
8746 (.) can I do this?" They say (.) "Yes (.) of course you can" (.) the tax office.  
8747 "But (.) may I ask you (.) sir (.) because you've got a foreign accent (.) are  
8748 you British?" I was like (.) "No (.) no (.) I'm Romanian." He said (.) "Oh (.)  
8749 right (.) and how long have you worked in Britain?" I was like (.) "Twelve  
8750 years." He said (.) "Well (.) there's a problem." I was like (.) "What?" "If  
8751 you are foreign you have to work in Britain thirty-five years before you see  
8752 any money of your pension."

8753 Henry: Thirty-five?

8754 Andrei: Thirty-five years. If you work thirty-four years in Britain you won't see a  
8755 penny.

8756 Henry: Actually can contribute into it (.) and you won't?

8757 Andrei: You won't see a penny. If you work thirty-five (.) However (.) if you are  
8758 British (.) no matter how many years you work (.) you do get something  
8759 back.

8760 Henry: Wow.

8761 Andrei: It was nationality by force. I started doing a calculation. I was like (.) "Oh  
8762 (.) it's only £1 (.)000 to become British" (.) and stuff. I have to go to the  
8763 town hall and tell then=

8764 Henry: =Swear allegiance?

8765 Andrei: Yes (.) all that stuff. ((laughter))

8766 Henry: Sing the anthem (.) yes.

8767 Andrei: My boss (.) who is English (.) and the guys from work turned up (.) and  
8768 they made a lot of noise (.) because they knew I was doing it by force.

8769 Henry: Yes.

8770 Andrei: I was like (.) “Let’s just go.”

8771 Henry: It’s crazy (.) because of course if you’re born here you don’t have to do that.  
8772 That’s what I find really=

8773 Andrei: =Yes (.) it’s mad.

8774 Henry: I’ve watched some of these ceremonies on YouTube (.) and it feels strange  
8775 to watch (.) that we put people through that=

8776 Andrei: =Some people really embraced it. Some people felt it was really solemn.  
8777 It’s a lot worse in America (.) by the way. You don’t want to know.

8778 Henry: Every morning in front of the flag in the schools (.) aren’t they?

8779 Andrei: They were all making fun of me (.) “Ah (.) you’re finally becoming  
8780 British.” And every time we have a thing (.) and they say (.) “Oh (.) so  
8781 what’s it like?” “Oh (.) so it’s better then?” I was like (.) “No (.) it’s just  
8782 like this.” And they say (.) “Ah (.) one day we will have to make you  
8783 British” (.) and all that stuff. Now two out of three jokes are about me being  
8784 British (.) and how much I have to pay (.) and all that stuff. ((laughter))  
8785 “You’re one of us now (.) ((Andrei)). You can’t get away.” That kind of  
8786 stuff.

8787 Henry: Yes. ((laughter))

8788 Andrei: Yes (.) that’s the reason why I became British.

8789 Henry: Like you said (.) nationality by force. You couldn’t not (.) really.

8790 Andrei: No (.) because I would just chuck a lot of money away. Like I said (.) I earn  
8791 quite a bit of money (.) and I pay a lot of money in tax (.) and a lot of  
8792 money in my pension (.) so it would be shitty just to give it (.) Because  
8793 that’s another thing. If I knew what they do with them (.) but (.) ((laughter))

8794 Henry: When you know what they spend it on (.) yes.

8795 Andrei: Exactly (.) yes.

8796 Henry: It’s not even like you know they’re going to spend it wisely.

8797 Andrei: Exactly (.) yes. It will be probably given to that single 15-year-old mum  
8798 with three kids at the end of my road (.) who is actually going and voting  
8799 Farage to kick me out.

8800 Henry: I can see why you’re so scared of Labour (.) in that sense. Because it would  
8801 be even worse (.) wouldn’t it? ((laughter))

8802 Andrei: Yes. They’re just sinister (.) aren’t they?

8803 Henry: A shame (.) really (.) in a sense (.) because (.) Let's talk about politics. I  
8804 enjoy politics (.) but it seems like all the main parties now are sort of taking  
8805 this rough stance when we talk about migration (.) and (.) "Oh (.) it needs  
8806 sorting out. It's such a problem." I think apart from the Greens (.) more or  
8807 less.

8808 Andrei: I voted Greens (.) yes.

8809 Henry: Yes (.) and that's the thing (.) isn't it? All the others now have taken this  
8810 sort of (.) "It needs to be controlled. We need to make sure people are  
8811 paying their way." ((laughter))

8812 Andrei: The biggest problem that we have in Britain (.) it's somehow immigration  
8813 (.) and it's not the fact that (.) The economy is booming probably because  
8814 the immigrants are contributing as well.

8815 Henry: So many from Europe have moved here. ((laughter))

8816 Andrei: And now we're doing better than all the other countries in Europe.

8817 Henry: Yes (.) put together (.) I think (.) more jobs.

8818 Andrei: For some reason we don't see that. We see a problem that more people are  
8819 coming in. This is insular mentality. There's no question about it. Britain  
8820 wants to do its own thing. It's got three pins on the plug (.) the wheel on the  
8821 other side. If they could they would have put milk in your tea. ((laughter))  
8822 I'm just saying this as fun (.) but I think (.) I saw the same sort of mentality  
8823 in the Canary Islands. They had a condescending description for the people  
8824 coming from the peninsula (.) who were coming to take their jobs. They  
8825 used to call the foreigners (.) and the Spanish people who came . So it's  
8826 quite a=

8827 Henry: =It's something about being an island and separate.

8828 Andrei: Yes. "This is here. This is us. That's it. We do it our way." There is a bit of  
8829 that in Britain (.) like in any other insular country (.) yes.

8830 Henry: It can't be healthy. It can't be a healthy way to think.

8831 Andrei: No. You're missing a lot of opportunities. By not opening your doors no  
8832 fresh air is going to come in. Overall I think Britain is quite tolerant. There  
8833 are a lot of people coming here. There are a lot of nations (.) and there's a  
8834 conglomerate of (.) I'm not saying open doors and let everybody in. What  
8835 I'm saying is stop making that your national priority when you've got other  
8836 shit to fry.

8837 Henry: I think part of it is about the irony sometimes in some of the things that are  
8838 said. I think someone in UKIP at one point said (.) "We should knock the  
8839 English Tunnel down (.) and we should block everything off." And  
8840 someone said (.) "Well (.) we need to get the Polish builders to do that.  
8841 Who are you going to get to do it?" ((laughter))

8842 Andrei: I will tell you what. I have faith in this nation. I think people will see sense.  
8843 If people wouldn't have seen sense Britain wouldn't be where it is this day.  
8844 Because it's always been an island (.) people have always been a bit funny

8845 (.) and a lot of people are being idiots (.) but Britain has got to a point (.)  
8846 and it's done well (.) because common sense eventually prevails. I've got a  
8847 lot of faith. I'm angry by what I see on TV (.) but it doesn't scare me. I just  
8848 think (.) "Water under the bridge."=

8849 Henry: =One day the switch for=

8850 Andrei: =Oh (.) probably nothing will ever change (.) but they will never go to the  
8851 extreme of actually taking it seriously (.) and closing their borders (.) and  
8852 that kind of stuff. They're not going to do that.

8853 Henry: Like what you were saying (.) the British thing of just moaning about it  
8854 forever and never doing anything.

8855 Andrei: We will complain. We will moan about it. We will make TV programmes.  
8856 We will say (.) "Oh (.) my God (.) this is terrible." When it comes to voting  
8857 (.) "Oh (.) shit." ((laughter))

8858 Henry: "Still do what I normally do."

8859 Andrei: Yes. It's not going to get out of the EU. I don't see it.

8860 Henry: No.

8861 Andrei: All the trade is with the EU.

8862 Henry: That will be the funny thing (.) won't it? When the elections come (.) and  
8863 UKIP doesn't happen in the way people think it does (.) and it's all just  
8864 been one big drama for three years for nothing. ((laughter))

8865 Andrei: Absolutely.

8866 Henry: That would just be the icing on the cake. "What was all that for?"  
8867 ((laughter))

8868 Andrei: Have you noticed the Romanian scandal sort of (.) scandal it's descended a  
8869 bit? Then the Arab thing with the execution with ISIS went up. Now there  
8870 was this thing about Channel 4 (.) but it hasn't got the momentum that it  
8871 had maybe one year ago when (.) "Oh (.) God (.) the Romanians are  
8872 coming."

8873 Henry: It was a build-up (.) wasn't it (.) to January 1<sup>st</sup>? That was part of the thing  
8874 (.) wasn't it?

8875 Andrei: Yes. Then we will pick on something else. We will pick on the  
8876 Macedonians and Moldavians (.) whoever wants to join in. Every year we  
8877 have something to talk about (.) don't we? We need to moan about  
8878 something (.) like you say.

8879 Henry: Hopefully something positive will come out of the end of it.

8880 Andrei: Well (.) it was the same in the 1960s. I don't know if your parents told you.  
8881 When the Pakistanis started arriving=

8882 Henry: =With Enoch Powell and things like that.

8883 Andrei: Jesus Christ. And the Caribbean and the Jamaican stuff. People thought (.)  
8884 "This is the end of the world. That's it."

8885 Henry: Well (.) my family in particular (.) my dad (.) he experienced the A8  
8886 accession (.) with just the explosion of the labour force in the building  
8887 industry. So I grew up with all of those ideas exposed. "Oh (.) God (.) it's a  
8888 bad thing (.) because (.) you know (.) competition." But then it's sort of  
8889 ironic (.) isn't it (.) when we think about how all these different ideas come  
8890 together? Because competition can't always be a bad thing (.) because we  
8891 use that model in every part of our lives. And we think it's a bad thing in  
8892 one particular thing. ((laughter))

8893 Andrei: Absolutely (.) yes.

8894 Henry: If it's bad (.) it's bad across the board (.) isn't it?=  
8895 Andrei: = keep it stimulated and do well (.) yes.

8896 Henry: It's quite funny (.) really (.) when you think about it. Because I think that's  
8897 part of the thing (.) isn't it? That we don't just sit and think (.) I say we.  
8898 Everyone. You just get carried away with an idea (.) and before you know it  
8899 they're making documentaries. ((laughter))

8900 Andrei: Absolutely (.) yes.

8901 Henry: Immigration Street or whatever else. It's sort of like a thing=  
8902 Andrei: =They had Benefits Street (.) wasn't it? That was a massive scandal. Now  
8903 there's this with the Romanians. They're probably going to pick on (.) I  
8904 don't know (.) some Muslim street or something. They will pick on  
8905 something. Particularly now (.) because it's in fashion (.) isn't it?

8906 Henry: Yes (.) I think you've articulated it perfectly (.) really (.) because the sense  
8907 of momentum is gone now (.) because there's just this fear of this new (.)

8908 Andrei: Yes.

8909 Henry: They behead people. It's even worse than defecating in the park.  
8910 ((laughter))

8911 Andrei: Absolutely.

8912 Henry: It's sort of like on another level. ((laughter))

8913 Andrei: Well (.) actually (.) what else? What exactly are Romanians doing that's so  
8914 antisocial and bad? If you try to think about it (.) to compare it anything  
8915 near-

8916 Henry: They sit on street corners and talk loudly.

8917 Andrei: Yes (.) exactly.

8918 Henry: It's the British (.) "I can't get my sleep." That's the sort of thing that  
8919 bothers people.

8920 Andrei: Yes. I'm sure you can (.) yes. ((laughter)) But compared to people-

8921 Henry: "These loud people. They can't just leave me alone." ((laughter))

8922 Andrei: Compared to decapitation (.) or Ryan renting out his social house (.) his  
8923 council house (.) I don't know (.) it's minuscule.

8924 Henry: It's sort of dwarfed=

8925 Andrei: =I don't understand the fascination.

8926 Henry: No.

8927 Andrei: It's crazy.

8928 Henry: I'm wondering at this point if there's anything (.) we've talked about quite a  
8929 lot really (.) if there's anything you would like to add or anything that has  
8930 come to mind. There's one last question I've got.

8931 Andrei: Yes (.) go ahead.

8932 Henry: You were saying earlier about drinking white tea.

8933 Andrei: Yes.

8934 Henry: Have you got any particular experiences of when you first tried it=

8935 Andrei: =Here when I first arrived (.) and I saw my wife. She said (.) "Well (.) you  
8936 have to put milk in your tea." I was like (.) "You can't have milk in your  
8937 tea. Boiled water with milk. What's wrong with you?" ((laughter)) Because  
8938 there's nowhere else in the world.

8939 Henry: No.

8940 Andrei: Well (.) obviously in British colonies I'm sure they do (.) but they don't put  
8941 milk in your tea in Germany (.) or France (.) and certainly not in Romania.  
8942 So that was quite strange. I quite like the fact that it's in a way unique (.)  
8943 and it's got its nice things. Have you seen that thing on Facebook with a  
8944 guy sitting at a table and a woman saying (.) "Tea?" And he says (.) "No."  
8945 Anarchy in the UK. ((laughter)) I find it quite funny.

8946 Henry: Yes.

8947 Andrei: There's nothing that I don't like about Britain. There are things that I would  
8948 change. I feel part of Britain. I feel almost self-critical whenever I say  
8949 things. Because whether we're going to fix the benefits system really  
8950 depends on my vote as well. So I'm more into (.) "Let's fix it together" (.)  
8951 kind of (.) "Oh (.) this is what the British are doing to me." It's not us and  
8952 them. It has never really been (.) apart from the beginning (.) really (.) when  
8953 I just couldn't get in through the door. Once I got my first bank account (.)  
8954 with an Electron card I think it was called (.) then I started feeling part of  
8955 society. As I said (.) I go home (.) and I'm a stranger at home now (.) a bit=

8956 Henry: =Yes. I suppose as time goes on you're more and more exposed to (.) like  
8957 you were saying (.) the-

8958 Andrei: Successful as a species (.) aren't we? Adaptability=.

8959 Henry: =Yes (.) but I suppose then it's being able to hold those (.) Like what you  
8960 were saying with all the different languages. There's always a sense that  
8961 you're tapping into all those different experiences you've had (.) and always  
8962 reliving things.

8963 Andrei: Yes (.) I've had a very rich life (.) like I said (.) and the fact that wherever  
8964 we go (.) For example (.) with work every year we have a football  
8965 championship (.) and no matter where we go (.) because it's always in  
8966 Europe (.) “((Andrei)) speaks the language.” So they just come to me. It's  
8967 like ((laughter)) “It's fine.”=

8968 Henry: =Wow. I suppose you epitomise all those European ideals=

8969 Andrei: =I feel at home everywhere I go. I travel to Germany. I love Germany. I  
8970 travel to France (.) Spain. I love Spain. Obviously I lived there. It's so  
8971 funny going back now to Spain (.) and just sometimes I go and visit places  
8972 that I've been (.) and the parks that I slept (.) and trees I slept under.

8973 Henry: Those same trees even? Are they still there?

8974 Andrei: The trees are going to be there man. They were just=

8975 Henry: =Humble beginnings (.) I suppose (.) and then=

8976 Andrei: =Yes. Every time I go to Madrid I spend a day just walking through Madrid  
8977 and seeing all my places.

8978 Henry: Your personal landmarks (.) in a way (.) aren't they?

8979 Andrei: Yes (.) and nobody goes with me. I do it on my own. It's a spiritual journey.  
8980 ((laughter))

8981 Henry: Does your girlfriend come with you?

8982 Andrei: Yes (.) she comes with me. She gets to do something else that day when I  
8983 decide I need to do my things.

8984 Henry: And she's happy with that?

8985 Andrei: Yes. Sometimes I stop and I busk with people. I let them have all the  
8986 money.

8987 Henry: It's nice (.) really. Because I suppose then you're probably meeting people  
8988 that you see some of yourself in maybe?

8989 Andrei: Yes (.) absolutely (.) but it was so different (.) and so extreme than my life  
8990 now (.) that you can actually (.) I sometimes think about it (.) and when it  
8991 comes at night sometimes it's like watching a movie that I've seen before (.)  
8992 but it's certainly not me. It's somebody else doing it.

8993 Henry: Wow.

8994 Andrei: I know that if I was to ever go and do it back it will come back naturally (.)  
8995 and I will be absolutely fine. I'm resourceful (.) I guess (.) in that sense.  
8996 ((laughter))



8997 Henry: Yes (.) and I suppose in a way just blocking out all of the scary side of it  
8998 and just doing it.

8999 Andrei: You're always apprehensive about doing something that you haven't done  
9000 before. With all my travels (.) and all that stuff (.) the night before we were  
9001 going to cycle to Romania both me and Raoul were sitting in the Old  
9002 Queen's Head and were shitting ourselves. And that guy is pretty travelled  
9003 as well. I was thinking (.) "Dude (.) 2 (.)800km (.) just on our bikes. Cars.  
9004 All that stuff. It's a whole continent that we're crossing. What if we get ill?  
9005 What happens?" We were apprehensive. We said (.) "Oh (.) my God. I hope  
9006 everything goes fine." Obviously it went absolutely fine. We ended up  
9007 staying in a lot of people's houses (.) sleeping behind (.) I didn't want  
9008 hotels. I made it very clear. "I don't want it to be a credit card luxury travel  
9009 for a fat European dude." Because I was still chubby. "I just want it to be a  
9010 proper traveller kind of experience. I want to meet new people and ask them  
9011 if I can sleep in their garden." And we did. We stopped at pubs (.) drank  
9012 loads of beers. We had loads of money. He's earning a lot of money.

9013 Henry: You just sort of stuck to the land all the way almost?=  
9014 Andrei: =Yes. The only times we slept in friend's houses (.) because when I worked  
9015 at SDL they got a lot of translators coming in. Those guys come and do a  
9016 couple of years and they go back to their country. So everywhere I go in  
9017 Europe now the chances are that there's a guy I used to work with.  
9018 ((laughter))

9019 Henry: Yes.

9020 Andrei: So (.) "Oh (.) you have to come and stay in my house. If you're travelling  
9021 past my town you're not sleeping anywhere. You come and stay in my  
9022 house."

9023 Henry: It's more to honour the friendships than to actually stay in the place then?

9024 Andrei: Beer every night. Obviously nice beer in Germany. I think I put on three  
9025 kilos actually on the trip. I didn't lose any weight. "I haven't seen you  
9026 forever" (.) and they want to get drunk with you. And 150km (.) or maybe  
9027 200km (.) there's another guy (.) and he wants to get drunk with you. So  
9028 you're plastered every night. Then 150 miles the next day.

9029 Henry: Someone has got to do it. ((laughter))

9030 Andrei: Just imagine (.) you can eat whatever you want. You wake up in the  
9031 morning (.) take a shower (.) and you go to a local bakery (.) because  
9032 Germans have that (.) and you basically have to make a conscious effort to  
9033 eat as much as you can (.) because you're going to burn 6 (.)000 to 7 (.)000  
9034 calories a day. So you have to force-

9035 Henry: Oh. The amount of food you would have to eat.

9036 Andrei: You have to force cookies down your throat (.) just because you know  
9037 you're going to burn it (.) and you need to carb-up. It is cool.

9038 Henry: A tough life. ((laughter))

9039 Andrei: If I had the time I would do it every day. ((laughter))

9040 Henry: Wow. What an achievement to have (.) what is it (.) €20 (.)000 did you say  
9041 you raised?

9042 Andrei: The way we wanted to do it (.) I thought (.) “Well (.) I'm going to do it.  
9043 Should we do it for charity?” Because I found out that people see this as an  
9044 extraordinary achievement. People who don't cycle think (.) “Oh (.) my  
9045 God (.) 100 miles. Is something wrong with you? How can you do that in a  
9046 day?” You can. If you start at nine o'clock in the morning (.) and you go  
9047 until seven o'clock in the evening (.) you have ten hours (.) just to go ten  
9048 miles an hour. You go a lot faster than that on the bike (.) and you will do  
9049 100 miles. In the general public conscience (.) they think it's an  
9050 achievement. It was like (.) “Why don't we do it for some charity?” Then  
9051 we said (.) “Well (.) yes (.) we can just collect the money and give it to  
9052 some children's charity or something like that.” But then we knew that  
9053 some of these charities have heads which get paid £35 (.)000 a year. So we  
9054 thought (.) “Why don't we remain in control of the money and do  
9055 something with it?” Here's the cool stuff. In my hometown (.) it's a  
9056 mountainous town (.) with a lot of villages spread across the mountains (.)  
9057 but it's a house here (.) and a house one kilometre away (.) and the school is  
9058 in my hometown (.) for the kids. So the kids have to come every day six or  
9059 seven kilometres to get to school.

9060 Henry: Wow.

9061 Andrei: They had a bus used to come and pick them up (.) but then back in 2010  
9062 when the downturn came they had to scrap the bus.

9063 Henry: You're joking.

9064 Andrei: Some kids were walking ten kilometres just to get to school (.) to access  
9065 their basic right to education (.) a day.

9066 Henry: In Europe? This was-

9067 Andrei: Yes (.) absolutely. So what we thought we would do is we will gather  
9068 enough money not to buy them a bus (.) but to buy them bicycles.

9069 Henry: Bikes (.) yes.

9070 Andrei: Which makes them healthy (.) because obviously it keeps them moving (.)  
9071 environmentally friendly (.) completely independent (.) etc. etc.

9072 Henry: Fun. ((laughter))

9073 Andrei: And absolutely fun. Obviously it has more repercussions (.) because we  
9074 said (.) “We're going to buy the bikes not from Giant or from GT Bicycles.  
9075 We're going to buy them from a local producer of bicycles (.) so encourage  
9076 local business as well.” So we had that connotation too. I tell you what.  
9077 Orange Romania jumped in with £2 (.)000 straight away from the  
9078 beginning. We went on National Geographic in Romania. I was in the  
9079 Sheffield Telegraph. If you look back enough you will find an article with  
9080 me. Obviously none of these companies give you money just because they

9081 think you're cool. They give you money because whenever you appear in  
 9082 press they appear with you. It's free sponsorship. Compared to what they  
 9083 pay for a radio advert (.) giving you £1 (.)000 is like nothing.

9084 Henry: Yes. There is a little bit of vested interest (.) but then for you (.) what  
 9085 purposes you could put it towards (.) and how many bikes you could have  
 9086 got for that (.)

9087 Andrei: Yes (.) absolutely. It was so well-planned (.) the whole thing (.) that it's got  
 9088 no holes anywhere. Local business encouraged (.) for the local kids. You  
 9089 don't give the money to anybody. They give the money directly through the  
 9090 bikes. Then obviously he company who did the bikes gave us a few for free.  
 9091 The Mayor started making bike locks and that kind of stuff. The helmets  
 9092 came for free from another place. So it was watertight (.) like you say.

9093 Henry: Yes. You would do it again (.) then (.) I suppose?

9094 Andrei: Oh (.) absolutely. It's just I haven't got time (.) with school now and work.  
 9095 When we finish here I just have to run home and do a lot of CAD for  
 9096 Friday. Yes (.) I've got no time to do anything these days. As soon as school  
 9097 is finished (.) in four years' time (.) I might just move back (.) build a cabin  
 9098 on top of my mountain (.) and then just work from home and do small  
 9099 contracts (.) a small extension here (.) a little house there (.) and retire.

9100 Henry: You will have to invite all of your friends from across Europe that you've  
 9101 met for your big 40<sup>th</sup> (.) won't you (.) at that point?

9102 Andrei: Of course. Absolutely. It's going to be a constant party up there (.) man.  
 9103 ((laughter))

9104 Henry: Yes. On top of a mountain as well. I know Romania is known for its  
 9105 fantastic scenery.

9106 Andrei: The Carpathians (.) yes. We've got everything. Sea (.) mountains (.)  
 9107 everything. It's just inhabited= ((laughter))

9108 Henry: =Yes. ((laughter))

9109 Andrei: That's the only problem with it. ((laughter))

9110 Henry: Try and find a place that's not been discovered yet. Well (.) I'm perfectly  
 9111 happy to leave it there if you are.

9112 Andrei: Magic.

9113 Henry: As you say (.) so you can get home.

9114 Andrei: I hope you got enough. ((laughter))

9115 Henry: Plenty. Yes (.) plenty. I will turn this off now. ((transcript ends))

***Transcript 9: Violeta***

9116 Henry: And that one's on (.) as well. Right (.) so I'd just like to start (.) if I can (.) by  
9117 asking you a little bit about yourself (.) so tell me a little bit about how long  
9118 you've been in the UK.

9119 Violeta: I came in March 2007 (.) so that's about eight years ago. I came here because my  
9120 sister was here (.) and I came for a holiday (.) but the holiday has extended for  
9121 more than eight years.

9122 Henry: Right (.) okay then. So (.) you first arrived (.) it would have just been a few weeks  
9123 (.) just staying=

9124 Violeta: I think it was the school holiday. No (.) March. It was for a few weeks (.) yes. But  
9125 then (.)

9126 Henry: Mm. You liked it so much you stayed.

9127 Violeta: Yes ((laughter)).

9128 Henry: And presumably (.) then (.) you got a job (.) as soon as you sort of (.) you said you  
9129 stayed at your sister's.

9130 Violeta: I got a job after a month (.) six weeks (.) I think.

9131 Henry: Mm. What was your first job?

9132 Violeta: In a factory in Halfway. I think it closed down (.) now. It was really cold.

9133 Henry: A cold job? Long hours (.) and sort of (.)

9134 Violeta: Yes.

9135 Henry: What sort of?

9136 Violeta: I think it was packing (.) you know (.) like food (.) ready meals.

9137 Henry: Right (.) yes. It sounds like quite a cold job. How long were you doing that for (.)  
9138 then?

9139 Violeta: I think six months. I was just too scared to look for another job (.) because  
9140 obviously (.) I didn't know Sheffield. I didn't know anybody here. So (.) I just  
9141 kept the job. But then I was brave enough to just leave (.) and get another job.

9142 Henry: Yes (.) so it just took a little bit of time to get used to everything?

9143 Violeta: Yes.

9144 Henry: So (.) when you were living with your sister (.) was it just the two of you?

9145 Violeta: And her boyfriend.

9146 Henry: And her boyfriend (.) as well. So (.) there were three of you. What was it like? A  
9147 little house (.) then (.) or?

9148 Violeta: It was a house (.) but I didn't get on with her boyfriend (.) so I left.

9149 Henry: Oh (.) gosh. That must have been difficult (.) then. Sort of awkward (.) with your  
9150 sister in the middle.

9151 Violeta: Yes. That's why I left (.) to be honest (.) because I didn't want to get in a silly  
9152 situation (.) so I just left. It's better. It's better that way.

9153 Henry: Mm. It can be difficult (.) can't it? Because it can sort of be like a third wheel (.)  
9154 can't it (.) sometimes?

9155 Violeta: Yes (.) extra=

9156 Henry: =When you're moving into the new environment. So (.) you ended up moving into  
9157 a place on your own (.) then (.) when you got a new job?

9158 Violeta: Mm. Well (.) first (.) I moved into a share house for a month (.) and I couldn't  
9159 cope with that (.) because there was just so much noise. You had to wait in a queue  
9160 to go and cook. You had to wait in a queue to have a shower. And I was like (.)  
9161 "No."

9162 Henry: Oh (.) gosh. Was that a big sort of house share (.) or was it just a couple of other  
9163 people?

9164 Violeta: It was up on Granville Road (.) so I think there were four or five bedrooms. So (.)  
9165 you can imagine people. Music on=

9166 Henry: =Yes. Everyone's got their own different lives (.) haven't they?

9167 Violeta: Yes. I managed to stay there for a month (.) and then I moved ((laughter)).

9168 Henry: I can empathise with that. When I was at uni (.) sharing halls and whatever (.) it's  
9169 that sort of environment (.) isn't it? Everyone's got different lifestyles (.) haven't  
9170 they?

9171 Violeta: Yes.

9172 Henry: Different habits. Different (.) like you say (.) music (.) and=was this with people  
9173 you know (.) or was this just an advertisement in the paper or something like that?

9174 Violeta: No. I found it=I think one of my friends told me about it (.) so obviously (.) I just  
9175 took whatever came first (.) to be able to move. But then I stayed there for a month  
9176 (.) and I had to go. It was hard.

9177 Henry: Gosh. Then what happened? Did you move into the flat that you've just moved out  
9178 of (.) then?

9179 Violeta: Yes.

9180 Henry: So (.) you must have been quite happy there (.) then. You've been there for quite a  
9181 while.

9182 Violeta: Yes. Well (.) I was living on my own (.) so I could do whatever I wanted. You  
9183 know (.) if you want to go and have a shower at two o'clock at night (.) you just go  
9184 and have a shower. You know (.) whatever you want to do.

9185 Henry: ((laughter)) Yes (.) there's no room for question (.) is there?

9186 Violeta: Yes.

9187 Henry: What job did you move to (.) then (.) from the factory? What was the job you got  
9188 after that?

9189 Violeta: I was doing a cleaning job at the hospital with an agency for (.) I don't know (.)  
9190 about two years (.) I think (.) there. Then (.) obviously (.) after I started to know  
9191 Sheffield (.) and different people (.) I got another job. Well (.) I've got three jobs  
9192 now (.) actually.

9193 Henry: Mm. Wow (.) three? Quite busy (.) then ((laughter)).

9194 Violeta: ((laughter)) Yes. I work as a carer now (.) personal assistant.

9195 Henry: And how do you find that (.) then?

9196 Violeta: I love it.

9197 Henry: Quite a demanding job (.) isn't it?

9198 Violeta: Yes (.) but you just have to get to know the people you're working with. But it's  
9199 fine. I love the job.

9200 Henry: Mm. Rewarding (.) I suppose (.) isn't it?

9201 Violeta: Yes.

9202 Henry: Is it with elderly people?

9203 Violeta: Yes. Older lady with Parkinson's (.) and the other one (.) she's got spinal injuries.  
9204 Knee replacement (.) hip. She's got all sorts.

9205 Henry: So (.) a lot of physical impairments (.) so you're having to help them quite a lot  
9206 with everyday stuff (.) really? Washing (.) and all the rest of it?

9207 Violeta: Yes (.) yes.

9208 Henry: Wow. They must have a lot of stories to tell you. A lot of sort of anecdotes.

9209 Violeta: Yes.

9210 Henry: It's nice (.) isn't it (.) to be able to have something that you can go to (.) and feel  
9211 like you're making a difference (.) and you're contributing (.) in that sense?

9212 Violeta: Yes. Like one of the ladies I'm looking after (.) with the spinal injuries (.) she  
9213 can't really (.) well (.) she can walk (.) just to go to the toilet. And then she has to  
9214 go back straight to bed. It makes me feel so much better (.) because everything I  
9215 do for her is like a new life (.) because she can't go out. So (.) I have to go and do  
9216 her shopping so she's got a normal life (.) like everybody else. It's nice. I love it.

9217 Henry: Yes. Do you get time to actually just sit and chat with them (.) as well?

9218 Violeta: Yes.

9219 Henry: So (.) there's that side of it (.) being sort of a friend to them (.) as well.

9220 Violeta: Yes.

9221 Henry: What about (.) So (.) are you still doing cleaning (.) as well (.) alongside that?

9222 Violeta: Yes. I kept that on the weekend. I only kept it because it's good pay.

9223 Henry: Yes (.) of course. What about the third job (.) then?

9224 Violeta: No (.) it's the one with the Parkinson's (.) the one with the spinal=

9225 Henry: Oh (.) I see (.) so they're two sort of=

9226 Violeta: Yes. And then the weekend job. It's enough ((laughter)).

9227 Henry: Yes (.) I can imagine ((laughter)). So (.) you're quite a busy person then (.) really?

9228 Violeta: Yes.

9229 Henry: Do you ever find time to sort of (.) Do you have any hobbies (.) or anything like  
9230 that?

9231 Violeta: Well (.) I did start going to the gym (.) but then I stopped (.) because I didn't have  
9232 time.

9233 Henry: No. That's the thing (.) isn't it? To find the time to live your own life. And like  
9234 you say (.) when you're moving house (.) gosh (.) that must have taken up time (.)  
9235 as well.

9236 Violeta: Yes.

9237 Henry: I could understand (.) when you're saying in the email (.) 'I'm very busy up until  
9238 that point.' I could understand (.) with everything you've got going on (.) gosh (.)  
9239 how do you manage to fit it all in?

9240 Violeta: Just do it (.) I think.

9241 Henry: Yes. So (.) could you tell me a little bit about life before you came to the UK (.)  
9242 then? Whereabouts in Romania are you from?

9243 Violeta: Northwest.

9244 Henry: So the Transylvania region?

9245 Violeta: Yes. It's (.) like (.) on the border with Hungary (.) so it's at that end.

9246 Henry: Mm.

9247 Violeta: Well (.) to be honest (.) I came to the UK on holiday because I was at uni (.) and  
9248 working at the same time. My mum and dad couldn't really afford to pay for my  
9249 uni (.) so I had to get a job to be able to pay for the fees. But then I couldn't work  
9250 nights and then go to uni. I managed to do it for three months (.) and then that's it.  
9251 I couldn't. So (.) I had to stop. Then (.) I came here for a holiday. I think it was  
9252 two weeks (.) actually (.) holiday (.) and then go back and just start work again.  
9253 But then the two weeks' holiday just (.) eight years ((laughter)).

9254 Henry: So (.) you were at uni in Romania (.) then?

9255 Violeta: Yes.

9256 Henry: What course were you doing?

9257 Violeta: IT and maths.

9258 Henry: IT. That's something that's come up quite a lot when I've spoken to people. They  
9259 do a lot of those sort of courses (.) don't they?

9260 Violeta: Yes (.) because I've done it in college for four years. Only IT and maths. That's all  
9261 I've done. I didn't really see the point in doing something else. That's what I  
9262 wanted to do.

9263 Henry: Yes (.) that's where your skills are.

9264 Violeta: Yes.

9265 Henry: Yes (.) so are you from just a small town (.) then (.) or are you from quite a big  
9266 place?

9267 Violeta: Yes (.) it's a small town.

9268 Henry: Mm (.) and you were living (.) I suppose (.) with your parents (.) and then went  
9269 to=

9270 Violeta: Yes.

9271 Henry: Were you doing high school? Were you living at home when you went to high  
9272 school (.) or did you go abroad for that (.) as well?

9273 Violeta: No (.) I was at home.

9274 Henry: Mm (.) so when you went to uni (.) that was the first time you moved away (.)  
9275 then?

9276 Violeta: Yes.

9277 Henry: What was that like?

9278 Violeta: Good. Freedom ((laughter)).

9279 Henry: Freedom ((laughter))?

9280 Violeta: Yes. The first few months (.) my mum used to phone me. "Are you home (.) eight  
9281 o'clock?" – "Yes."=

9282 Henry: =Oh (.) gosh. She was checking up on you?

9283 Violeta: Yes=

9284 Henry: =So she was quite a=I don't know how you might describe it. But she cushioned  
9285 you a lot (.) then (.) trying to look after you?

9286 Violeta: Yes. She was just worried that something might happen (.) every time I was  
9287 leaving the house. So (.) going to uni for me was like (.) "Wow." ((laughter)).

9288 Henry: Yes (.) because you got to just (.) I suppose you had to go somewhere quiet (.)  
9289 though (.) to say (.) "I'm at home (.) now. I'm in bed." You know (.) when there's  
9290 sort of like stuff going on in the background.

9291 Violeta: Yes.

9292 Henry: Oh (.) and how about your dad? Was he the same (.) then?

9293 Violeta: No. My dad actually tried to convince my mum just to leave me alone. She was  
9294 doing exactly the same with my sister and my brother. But that's my mum. She  
9295 worries about everything.

9296 Henry: ((laughter)) Yes. I suppose she must (.) does she call your sister a lot to check up  
9297 on her (.) then?

9298 Violeta: No (.) it was only me. I'm the middle one. I've always been a mummy's girl.

9299 Henry: Yes (.) but I'm the same with my mum (.) to be fair. When you have that sort of  
9300 connection (.) it makes it worse (.) in a way (.) doesn't it? Because they become  
9301 even more (.) close (.) it's like (.) "It's okay. I'll let you know." – "No (.) but you  
9302 must tell me now." ((laughter)).

9303 Violeta: Yes.



9304 Henry: So (.) you went to uni (.) you moved away. Whereabouts did you go to uni? Was it  
9305 in Bucharest?

9306 Violeta: No (.) that's too far. It's just like the next town.

9307 Henry: The next town away?

9308 Violeta: Yes=

9309 Henry: =So (.) far enough to sort of get away?

9310 Violeta: Yes (.) just to get a bit of freedom.

9311 Henry: You say you came over for a summer break to the UK (.) then.

9312 Violeta: Yes (.) I came in March.

9313 Henry: Did you go back and finish your uni?

9314 Violeta: No (.) because I had to stop anyway (.) because I couldn't afford=

9315 Henry: Mm (.) the fees?

9316 Violeta: Yes (.) the fees (.) and obviously (.) because I had to choose between finishing  
9317 work (.) stopping that (.) or (.)

9318 Henry: Or stop uni?

9319 Violeta: Yes (.) so obviously (.) if I stopped work (.) then I'd have no money to pay for uni  
9320 (.) so I couldn't do it.

9321 Henry: Mm. It's interesting you say that (.) then. It sort of sounds like the link you had  
9322 with going back (.) your course (.) when that ended (.) you didn't have any reason  
9323 to go back (.) so you thought you'd stay here and start a new life here (.) then.

9324 Violeta: Yes. Well (.) when I decided to stay here (.) if I worked for six months (.) when  
9325 you think about the wage (.) it's like (.) oh (.) you know (.) six months (.)  
9326 maximum a year (.) you can save so much and then go back and finish uni. But  
9327 then you forget about the rent and the bills and everything else. So (.) in a year (.)  
9328 you can't really save any money.

9329 Henry: No (.) and I suppose that's a bit of a trap (.) then (.) isn't it?

9330 Violeta: Yes.

9331 Henry: Because once you're here (.) you're sort of here and stuck in all the bills and  
9332 deposits and all the rest of it (.) aren't you?

9333 Violeta: Yes.

9334 Henry: Is that something that (.) when you look back on (.) you wish you'd known (.)  
9335 then? How much it cost to live here?

9336 Violeta: I don't know. I don't regret (.) I love here. I don't think I'll ever go back. Well (.)  
9337 I'll go for holidays (.) but not like to move back there. Obviously (.) when you're  
9338 somewhere else (.) when you come into the UK first (.) you don't realise that life  
9339 in the UK is expensive. If you tell everybody else (.) like (.) some of my friends (.)  
9340 they ask me how much I get a month. And when I tell them over £1 (.)000 or  
9341 whatever (.) they'll think that's a lot of money. But then (.) it's rent-

9342 Henry: Mm (.) when you say (.) "This is what I have to pay for (.) "

9343 Violeta: Yes. It's all the other bills (.) and everything else (.) and you've got no money else.  
 9344 But they don't seem to say that. I think I was the same when I came here. I was  
 9345 hoping I'd save (.) I don't know how much (.) in six months ((laughter)). It never  
 9346 happened.

9347 Henry: Was there anything else that you knew about the UK before you came?

9348 Violeta: No.

9349 Henry: Nothing at all?

9350 Violeta: No. I watched a few programmes on TV about the UK (.) but they don't really  
 9351 show (.) they just show London. All the fancy places you want to go. So (.) when I  
 9352 came here (.) it was a shock (.) kind of (.) because I didn't know what to expect.  
 9353 What you see on TV and the reality is different. I remember when I came (.)  
 9354 because I lived with my sister first (.) and then Court Road in Sheffield. I don't  
 9355 know that (.) And it was just (.) I don't know. Half-naked kids outside. I didn't  
 9356 expect to see that. Playing and (.) I don't know.

9357 Henry: Mm (.) I suppose it's (.) yes. I suppose it wouldn't make telly (.) because it's just  
 9358 so different to what you'd seen on TV.

9359 Violeta: Yes. I was expecting to see places with flowers everywhere (.) nice and clean. And  
 9360 I don't know.

9361 Henry: Didn't quite match up ((laughter)) Unfortunately.

9362 Violeta: No (.) no ((laughter)).

9363 Henry: That's Sheffield as being the main city [of your impression]

9364 Violeta: [Yes (.) because I've only been in Sheffield.  
 9365 I've been to London (.) just to renew my passport. But there's no way I'd move to  
 9366 London ever.

9367 Henry: What was your impression of London (.) then?

9368 Violeta: Oh (.) no way. It's just overcrowded. And in London (.) I've only been there for a  
 9369 day (.) and it just seems like people (.) they don't have a life. They don't even look  
 9370 at each other when they're walking. They just go home (.) go to work (.) and the  
 9371 same (.) day after day. Same thing every day.

9372 Henry: That's really (.) it's quite a powerful thing to hear you say. My experience of  
 9373 London is (.) like you say (.) it's so crowded and big (.) and people everywhere.  
 9374 And before you know it (.) on the Underground or even at a bus stop (.) there's  
 9375 just people surrounding you. And then there's no people (.) and then there's  
 9376 people. It's just incredibly=

9377 Violeta: Yes. Sends you dizzy.

9378 Henry: Yes (.) it's that sort of feeling (.) isn't it? The architecture is about the best bit  
 9379 about it (.) because there's quite a lot of nice buildings and flowers and stuff.

9380 Violeta: Yes ((laughter)).

9381 Henry: But unfortunately (.) you never see them (.) because of the people ((laughter)).

9382 Violeta: Yes (.) you don't get a chance (.) because if you stop for two minutes (.)  
 9383 somebody's pushing you.

9384 Henry: Yes. I'm wondering what (.) talked quite a lot about these. Just in regards to  
9385 language (.) were you taught English at school (.) or?

9386 Violeta: Yes (.) I did.

9387 Henry: You sort of picked bits up along the way (.) that sort of thing?

9388 Violeta: No (.) I learnt English in school (.) but my first language was French (.) so I only  
9389 learned English I think for the last four years (.) then (.) in college (.) yes.

9390 Henry: Right (.) okay then. So (.) you probably picked quite a lot of it up moving here (.)  
9391 and sort of=

9392 Violeta: Yes.

9393 Henry: Wow. What was that experience like for you (.) then?

9394 Violeta: My first day in Sheffield (.) my sister sent me to the shop to get some bread and  
9395 milk or something like that. And she knew (.) because=and it was (.) well (.) the  
9396 owner. I walked in and I said (.) "Good morning (.)" or whatever. Then he says (.)  
9397 "You alright (.) love?" I just looked at him and I was like (.) "What?" Because  
9398 obviously (.) when you learn it in school (.) 'love' means something else. And then  
9399 'flower'. I'm like (.) "What's wrong with people?" Somebody called me (.) once  
9400 (.) 'chick'. I was like (.) "Do I really look like a chicken?" Because (.) you know  
9401 (.) it means something else.

9402 Henry: Yes.

9403 Violeta: Obviously (.) I asked (.) I thought (.) "It can't be that bad. I'm a flower (.) a  
9404 chicken (.) I'm love." But then obviously I knew what they meant (.) so (.)

9405 Henry: Mm (.) yes. There is something to that (.) isn't there? When we're taught those  
9406 words (.) they're literal (.) aren't they? It's 'chicken.'

9407 Violeta: Yes.

9408 Henry: So (.) if someone's saying it in a slang way (.) it is a bit strange (.) isn't it (.) the  
9409 more you think about it?

9410 Violeta: Yes.

9411 Henry: ((laughter)) Gosh (.) what must you have thought in the shop? Sort of like (.) "Is  
9412 he talking to me?"

9413 Violeta: Yes (.) because he said (.) "You alright (.) love?" I just looked around (.) like (.)  
9414 "Is there anybody else here? No (.) it's only me." I told my sister (.) after (.) and  
9415 she just=

9416 Henry: Did she laugh ((laughter))?

9417 Violeta: Yes.

9418 Henry: Because that was what it was all about. It was a test (.) wasn't it?

9419 Violeta: Yes (.) yes.

9420 Henry: Oh (.) gosh. So (.) I imagine you've had quite a few experiences like that (.) on the  
9421 bus or whatever else.

9422 Violeta: Yes (.) the bus driver.

9423 Henry: Yes. Trying to make ends meet (.) really. Make sure they ((laughter)) (.)

9424 Violeta: Yes.

9425 Henry: So (.) you were talking earlier about life here (.) and obviously you've got your  
9426 house now. Is this where home feels for you (.) now?

9427 Violeta: Yes.

9428 Henry: Mm (.) so how do you feel about=? I mean (.) do you still go back to Romania? Do  
9429 you still travel back?

9430 Violeta: Well (.) yes. I go to see my mum and dad every couple of months. I have to go.

9431 Henry: Yes (.) that's an important point (.) isn't it? I bet she's still ringing up asking for  
9432 you.

9433 Violeta: Yes. If I don't go (.) they're coming over here (.) so (.)

9434 Henry: And it's better for you to go back? Less hassle?

9435 Violeta: Yes (.) otherwise I have to go and pick them up (.) and then stay here with them (.)  
9436 and they just want to know too many things ((laughter))

9437 Henry: Asking too many questions?

9438 Violeta: Yes (.) so if I go over there (.) it's better.

9439 Henry: And what's it like for you (.) then? Does it feel different when you go back (.) now  
9440 that you've moved?

9441 Violeta: Yes. It just seems like that's not my place anymore (.) especially the first (.) like (.)  
9442 usually I go for two weeks. The first week is just (.) obviously (.) I have to go and  
9443 see all my aunties and everybody else.

9444 Henry: Yes. I suppose your mum tells everyone that you're coming back.

9445 Violeta: Yes. I think the whole country knows. Then the second week is just (.) I can't wait  
9446 to come back. All my friends (.) if they're not married (.) they've gone somewhere  
9447 else (.) and it's just (.) I don't see the point. Here is my home now.

9448 Henry: Mm (.) so I suppose there's a sense that everything that you've got is here (.) now  
9449 (.) and the more you go (.)

9450 Violeta: Yes.

9451 Henry: Are there things that sort of stick out at you back home (.) that you never thought  
9452 about previously? You know what you were saying with the slang (.) here? Are  
9453 there things that are more noticeable for you when you go back? Sort of like (.)  
9454 "Well (.) that's weird. I've never thought about that." Is there anything like that?

9455 Violeta: No. I don't know.

9456 Henry: Do you know what I mean?

9457 Violeta: No.

9458 Henry: Sorry. In the sense that (.) you know when you were saying about different words  
9459 (.) and they're sometimes used a bit funny here (.) in comparison? Like with  
9460 'chick' and 'love.'

9461 Violeta: Oh (.) you mean the language over there?

9462 Henry: Yes. Are there things that you notice now (.) going back (.) that since moving (.)  
9463 you're sort of like? Sorry (.) it wasn't very clear (.) the way I explained it.

9464 Violeta: Yes (.) yes. Because (.) you know (.) when you're living over there (.) you just talk  
9465 and think like everybody else. It happened (.) I think it was last year (.) I managed  
9466 to catch pneumonia in June (.) when it was 35 degrees in Romania. Yes (.) don't  
9467 ask.

9468 Henry: ((laughter)) Gosh.

9469 Violeta: Yes. I'd been on holiday for two weeks (.) then ten days in hospital. Yes. Nice. So  
9470 (.) I had to go to the pharmacy to get some tablets. Then (.) people (.) they don't  
9471 know to wait in a queue. They just push in or whatever. It does feel weird (.)  
9472 because it's like (.) "Well (.) I've been here before you (.)" if you know what I  
9473 mean. "Wait in the queue." Now (.) it does look different and it feels weird (.) but  
9474 back 10 years ago (.) 8 years ago (.) it was just (.) no (.) just do like everybody  
9475 else.

9476 Henry: So the queuing then (.) to put it the other way around (.) when you first came here  
9477 (.) queuing must have been something that stood at you at being quite a (.)

9478 Violeta: Yes. Looking like (.) you know (.) "Why is everybody waiting there?" Then I  
9479 thought (.) "Okay (.) yes. You have to wait in a queue to go and pay."

9480 Henry: Mm (.) it's interesting. I don't know how you feel about this. Another participant  
9481 was saying a lot of Romanians don't like queueing because of what it reminds  
9482 them of (.) in the past (.) when you'd have to queue for food and things like that. Is  
9483 that something that?

9484 Violeta: Yes. Well (.) I'm not that old to remember that.

9485 Henry: No (.) of course (.) but in terms of your family or things that might have been  
9486 taught to you (.) is that something that rings true in your case as well (.) then?

9487 Violeta: Yes (.) yes (.) because even now (.) like today (.) I don't know (.) over-50s (.) they  
9488 still go (.) even if the queue is to the other end (.) they just walk in (.) and it's like  
9489 (.) "Oh (.) can you just give me some?" Whatever. They still do it.

9490 Henry: So (.) it's older ideas that are still=yes. Sorry. Can I ask how old you are (.) if you  
9491 don't mind?

9492 Violeta: Twenty-nine. I'll be thirty this year (.) yes.

9493 Henry: Yes (.) so I suppose (.) as you say (.) you would have been just a little girl.

9494 Violeta: Yes. I remember (.) but not a lot (.) because I was only a small child.

9495 Henry: So it would have been when you were growing up. Everything was going on (.)  
9496 everything was changing.

9497 Violeta: Yes. I remember with the TV (.) you weren't allowed to watch TV after seven  
9498 o'clock or something like that. So (.) obviously (.) when I started growing (.) it  
9499 was more like (free) (.) because I could do whatever I wanted. My sister (.) she's  
9500 older than me. She can remember. So (.) I presume for older people (.) they just  
9501 don't want to live that life again (.) but that's no reason just to push in. [But they]  
9502 don't see it that way.

9503 Henry: Yes. It's a very British thing (.) isn't it (.) queues? It's a funny sort of (.) yes.

9504 Violeta: Yes.

9505 Henry: What about your experience of eating English (.) or Scottish (.) or whatever (.)  
9506 food and drink? What about those sorts of things? Do you eat a lot of food here (.)  
9507 or do you still cook a lot of Romanian food?

9508 Violeta: Oh (.) no. I have English food. I love Sunday dinners ((laughter)).

9509 Henry: You have English food? Do you? Roasts and stuff.

9510 Violeta: Oh (.) yes. I love Yorkshire puddings. My mum (.) they came here two years ago  
9511 for Christmas. So (.) obviously (.) I thought (.) “It’s Christmas. I’ll cook.” I bought  
9512 Yorkshire puddings (.) because I didn’t know how to do it. I know now. My mum  
9513 loves it (.) so now she’s having Yorkshire puddings (.) and last time (.) she said  
9514 she had some onions in. Yes (.) she’s just eating them like that ((laughter)).

9515 Henry: Right (.) wow. I must admit (.) they are quite hard to make. They’re quite easy  
9516 when you know the mixture (.) but they’re hard to make a decent (.) sometimes  
9517 they can just go incredibly wrong (.) can’t they ((laughter))? I’ve never been able  
9518 to make a good-sized Yorkshire pudding. Never. What about drinks (.) then? Are  
9519 you happy to drink the tea (.) and the coffee and all that sort of thing?

9520 Violeta: Yes. I don’t really like tea. I just drink coffee. But I’ve never (.) well (.) I do have  
9521 tea when I’m not very well. But I never drink (.) well. Sometimes (.) let’s say once  
9522 a month (.) I’ll have a cup of tea. But that’s me. I just don’t like tea. Even before I  
9523 came here. It’s just coffee.

9524 Henry: Oh (.) okay. Again (.) another participant was saying about how the tea tastes  
9525 different. The tea’s different (.) with milk.

9526 Violeta: Yes (.) with milk. The first time (.) when I worked in the factory (.) because we  
9527 used to go for breaks like four (.) four or two and twos. Then (.) one of the girls  
9528 asked me (.) “Do you want a cup of tea?” And because it’s so cold (.) you are so  
9529 cold downstairs (.) I said (.) “Yes.” But then I was thinking (.) like a cup of tea (.)  
9530 cup of tea. No milk. Then (.) she came (.) and I was like (.) “Well (.) I’m sure you  
9531 did ask me if I want a cup of tea. You’ve got me coffee.” She said (.) “No (.) it’s  
9532 tea.” But it doesn’t taste bad.

9533 Henry: Mm. I suppose it was like something that (.) is it something you had to have  
9534 several tries of (.) to get used to it?

9535 Violeta: Yes ((laughter)). I had to have it (.) because I was just embarrassed to tell her that I  
9536 don’t like it. She was looking at me (.) “Are you drinking?” – “Yes.” But it’s okay.

9537 Henry: Yes. It’s a strange thing. Before I’d started these interviews (.) it had never  
9538 occurred to me. Some people do drink tea black (.) but it had never occurred to me  
9539 that some people drink tea without milk as a (.) not as a choice thing (.) but that’s  
9540 just how you have tea. It’s amazing (.) isn’t it? Because you had that opposite  
9541 experience (.) like (.) “Why would you put milk in it?” ((laughter)) It’s interesting.

9542 Violeta: Yes.

9543 Henry: So (.) what about the neighbourhood (.) the area you’re living in now (.) where  
9544 your new house is? How are you finding that neighbourhood?

9545 Violeta: Well (.) to be honest (.) I don’t really know the area. My neighbour (.) she’s all  
9546 right. But that’s about all.

9547 Henry: Mm. I suppose it’s all quite new (.) isn’t it?

9548 Violeta: Yes (.) I don't know anybody there.

9549 Henry: Yes. What about where your flat was? What sort of neighbourhood was that like?

9550 Violeta: I knew the landlady there (.) and there was an old lady (.) not next door but one to  
9551 me. Every time when I used to go outside to hang up my washing (.) she was just  
9552 there talking for ages ((laughter)).

9553 Henry: Oh (.) gosh. One of those neighbours.

9554 Violeta: Yes (.) so I've got a good friend there.

9555 Henry: Yes. She must miss you (.) miss the chat. Oh. You should invite her over for tea  
9556 sometime ((laughter)).

9557 Violeta: She knows where I moved to.

9558 Henry: Oh (.) does she?

9559 Violeta: Yes (.) before I moved (.) because she saw me packing (.) taking the stuff. She  
9560 came and asked for my address. I was like (.) "Oops." She did say she's coming to  
9561 visit me soon.

9562 Henry: Oh (.) lovely. It's nice (.) isn't it (.) when you've got neighbours like that (.)  
9563 because there's that real sense of community (.) isn't there?

9564 Violeta: Mm.

9565 Henry: Is there anyone else (.) or is it just this particular lady that you sort of befriended?

9566 Violeta: No (.) just her (.) yes.

9567 Henry: At this point (.) then (.) we've talked quite a lot about you specifically. I'd like to  
9568 know any views (.) or any feelings you might have (.) about the way that  
9569 Romanian migration is being talked about in the media (.) the newspapers (.) the  
9570 television (.) what your views are on that.

9571 Violeta: Yes. I don't know if you watched the last (.) I think it's Channel Four (.) with 'The  
9572 Romanians Are Coming.' I just put it on for 10 minutes (.) and I thought (.) "No (.)  
9573 I'm not watching this." I know even some of my friends (.) because for some  
9574 reason (.) they say I'm Polish (.) which to be honest (.) I don't care. I can be  
9575 Chinese if you want me to. I don't care. Then they started talking (.) obviously (.)  
9576 after the programme. "Oh (.) bloody Romanians. They're all gypsies (.) and  
9577 they're coming here to do whatever they do." Then they tell me (.) and I just (.)  
9578 you know (.) okay. That's your opinion. It's your problem. When I tell them I'm  
9579 Romanian (.) "No (.) you can't be Romanian." – "Why? Do you want to see the  
9580 passport? What do you want me to do?" – "No (.) you can't be." And if you ask  
9581 them why (.) it's because I'm different. "Why? I've got two eyes (.) got two hands.  
9582 I'm not different." – "No (.) because Romanians are all gypsies (.) and they're  
9583 begging and whatever else they do." So (.) to be honest (.) all the programmes or  
9584 whatever they do about Romanians is not really helping. But then again (.)  
9585 everybody's entitled to think what they want to think.

9586 Henry: Mm. As you say (.) the programmes (.) I have seen the=

9587 Violeta: I didn't watch it.

9588 Henry: I don't know if the third one is out now (.) but I have seen them. I made a point of  
9589 watching them. Most of what you see (.) they are (.) it is a very specific type of  
9590 person in the sense that they come and they're living on the streets. That's their

9591 life (.) and yet that's not necessarily what everyone would experience (.) and that's  
9592 what they show.

9593 Violeta: Yes. Well (.) I only watched it for the first 10 minutes. When they showed in  
9594 Romania (.) where there was a Romanian gypsy. Where that guy comes from is  
9595 where my mum lives (.) so it's near (.) and I've been there before. There is nothing  
9596 (.) what they showed on TV. All the dirt and stuff.

9597 Henry: Oh (.) yes. The sort of opening bit when they're riding the horses (.) and there's  
9598 rubbish everywhere (.) isn't there? And that sort of (.)

9599 Violeta: Yes (.) yes. No (.) it's not. It's not like that. To be honest (.) I don't know where  
9600 they got that from (.) And it's like (.) I just don't believe the programme. Living  
9601 on the streets and then you get (.) first of all (.) to open a bank account with no  
9602 proof of address. Then you get benefits when you've never worked (.) never paid a  
9603 penny in tax in the UK. I don't think that's possible.

9604 Henry: No. There are a couple of strange things that happen in it (.) that you have to=

9605 Violeta: I didn't watch it. Somebody told me. I don't even want to watch it.

9606 Henry: Yes. I can agree with what you've been told. You just see the phone calls being  
9607 made (.) and then you see them at the cashpoint taking it out (.) and they say (.) "I  
9608 love the UK. I love it." And that's the only part you see. It is quite dubious. From  
9609 what you're saying to me (.) then (.) there's a sense that it's not right (.) what's  
9610 being shown.

9611 Violeta: No. It's just (.) they don't show anything else. They don't show any positives  
9612 about Romanians. Well (.) it's more than gypsies. Gypsies are everywhere. It's not  
9613 only Romanian gypsies. But they don't (.) like (.) I think it was last year (.) with  
9614 the Olympic Games. Not last year (.) the year before.

9615 Henry: The Olympics? They were 2012 (.) weren't they?

9616 Violeta: Yes (.) a few years ago.

9617 Henry: Time flies (.) doesn't it? It's hard to keep track.

9618 Violeta: Yes. It was the same with the Romanian gypsies (.) somewhere in Marble Arch or  
9619 somewhere (.) but it doesn't represent Romanians.

9620 Henry: What sort of things (.) to you (.) would make you feel a little bit more easy about?  
9621 What sort of things would you say are Romanian (.) as opposed to what is shown  
9622 (.) then?

9623 Violeta: Well (.) most of the people I know (.) like in Sheffield or anywhere else (.) they  
9624 came here (.) they have a job (.) pay their taxes and just live a normal life like  
9625 everybody else. Obviously (.) there are people everywhere where they don't like to  
9626 work (.) and they just go and think (.) "Oh (.) I'll have that because it looks nice."  
9627 But that is like everywhere else.

9628 Henry: Mm. So (.) I suppose it's just that more (.) it's not even about Romanian culture (.)  
9629 then (.) in your view. It's just simply that people are working and contributing and  
9630 giving something. Yes. It's quite a simple point (.) then (.) really (.) isn't it?

9631 Violeta: Mm.



9632 Henry: A simple injustice (.) that's (.) how about your experience? Have you been  
9633 anywhere else in Europe? Have you moved anywhere else (.) or is it just the UK  
9634 that you've been to?

9635 Violeta: No (.) just Sheffield.

9636 Henry: Just Sheffield? Okay (.) then. Some of our participants have been in other places  
9637 (.) as well (.) and (.)

9638 Violeta: No.

9639 Henry: From what I know of the Transylvania sort of area (.) there's quite a lot of  
9640 commonality with Hungary and Germany and that sort of part of the world.

9641 Violeta: Yes.

9642 Henry: Is there anything (.) Is that the case for you (.) then (.) in your experience (.) that  
9643 you've grown up with quite a lot of those sorts of ideas and cuisines?

9644 Violeta: Yes.

9645 Henry: Is that something that you'd like to (.) Are those sorts of places somewhere you'd  
9646 like to go to in the future (.) or?

9647 Violeta: I don't know. This is my home now (.) so I just go anyway (.) just on holiday. To  
9648 be honest (.) I don't think I want to go. I'm happy where I am.

9649 Henry: Yes. You just convey (.) it sounds like you're already sort of happy in everything  
9650 that you're doing (.) with your jobs (.) and now your new house. It's all quite (.)

9651 Violeta: Yes.

9652 Henry: It sounds like you've really bedded in. You were saying earlier about your  
9653 experience with the tea (.) and that was in the factory (.) wasn't it (.) the cup of  
9654 tea?

9655 Violeta: Yes ((laughter)).

9656 Henry: What about other work colleagues (.) like in the caring jobs that you've got? What  
9657 have been your experiences there (.) then?

9658 Violeta: Well (.) most of them (.) they are really nice. One of (.) I think she's about 65. She  
9659 can't hear you. She's got a hearing aid (.) but for some reason (.) sometimes (.) it  
9660 doesn't work. Then obviously (.) when I talk (.) because of my accent (.) she kind  
9661 of like (.) and it just feels weird. "Okay (.) just move away"

9662 Henry: "That doesn't help you hear me?"

9663 Violeta: Yes. I can shout in your ear if you want (.) but you don't have to come that close.

9664 Henry: Yes (.) so that sense of having a different accent?

9665 Violeta: Mm.

9666 Henry: Yes. It's sometimes a bit odd (.) isn't it? When people can't place your accent.

9667 Violeta: Yes. A few times (.) I did hear them talking behind my back (.) when one of them  
9668 said she can't understand me because of my accent. And I said (.) "If you don't  
9669 understand what I'm saying (.) just ask me and I can repeat." – "Oh (.) no. It's  
9670 fine. I can understand." So (.) that's why I don't get it. If you don't understand (.)  
9671 just tell me. I'm not going to get offended. I'm not going to be upset. But they just

9672 (.) I don't know. But now they know me well enough. I think they got used to my  
9673 accent ((laughter)).

9674 Henry: Yes (.) and I think some of it (.) as well (.) sometimes (.) it can be more about  
9675 them than about you.

9676 Violeta: Well (.) I can understand sometimes that they can't understand me. But if you  
9677 can't understand (.) just ask me to repeat. It's easy.

9678 Henry: Yes. It's amazing (.) because some people just have no experiences of meeting  
9679 people with different accents or whatever (.) and sometimes (.) it seems like people  
9680 don't know how to deal with it.

9681 Violeta: Yes.

9682 Henry: It's the only sort of way they can (.) "I don't understand them." As you say (.) it  
9683 doesn't make any sense. "Why don't you just ask?"

9684 Violeta: Yes. At the beginning (.) when they were talking about me (.) when they said they  
9685 can't understand me (.) I was just thinking (.) "Well (.) I was kind of the same  
9686 when I came here." I could speak English (.) but it was hard to get used to the  
9687 accent. So (.) I thought (.) "Well (.) probably the same for them." But I don't  
9688 know. A few weeks back (.) they said exactly the same thing (.) so I thought (.)  
9689 "Oh. If you don't understand (.) just ask."

9690 Henry: Yes (.) and that's sort of your mantra (.) then? You say it all the time?

9691 Violeta: Yes.

9692 Henry: Make it clear to people.

9693 Violeta: Yes. I told them (.) "If you don't understand (.) just ask me again." – "No (.) I can  
9694 understand you." So (.) you know (.)

9695

9696 Henry: What's the problem ((laughter))? Oh (.) gosh. It seems like going in circles (.)  
9697 sometimes (.) with them.

9698 Violeta: Yes (.) yes. I've got used to it now (.) so (.)

9699 Henry: Yes. You're very patient.

9700 Violeta: Well (.) I wouldn't say that.

9701 Henry: You come across as patient. Do you not feel like you are (.) sometimes?

9702 Violeta: I am patient (.) but just to a point (.) and then when I get to that point (.) you don't  
9703 want to be around me ((laughter)). Then (.) you might not be able to understand  
9704 me.

9705 Henry: Let's see. What else have I got? How would you say? By all means (.) ask me  
9706 again if this doesn't make any sense (.) because I'm trying to run it through my  
9707 head. Since moving (.) has moving here changed the way that you see yourself?  
9708 The way that you think about what you want from life (.) and who you are?

9709 Violeta: Yes.

9710 Henry: In what sort of ways?

9711 Violeta: Every way (.) because before I came here (.) I mean (.) living in Romania (.) if you  
9712 don't really have a good (.) good job (.) you can't afford=there was no way (.) in a  
9713 million years (.) with a job like cleaning. Because (.) I mean (.) come on (.) a  
9714 cleaning job (.) even here (.) is not something like nobody else can do it. But doing  
9715 that back in Romania (.) there would be no way (.)not even to get a loan for a car.  
9716 With that kind of job (.) no way. But since I came here (.) I passed my driving test  
9717 (.) I got a car. Now I've just got a house. And to do exactly the same thing in  
9718 Romania (.) no (.) and especially because I'm young. Well (.) I like to believe I'm  
9719 young ((laughter)).

9720 Henry: You are young (.) yes.

9721 Violeta: So (.) yes. My life changed (.) since I came.

9722 Henry: So it's these sense that (.) just having more opportunities [and being able to  
9723 achieve more]

9724 Violeta: [Yes (.) and you get more  
9725 help here]

9726 Henry: Mm. So (.) there's a real sense (.) then (.) that what things are available (.) what  
9727 opportunities are available in Romania are a big factor in why you want to stay  
9728 here (.) because you feel like there's more of a future here for you.

9729 Violeta: Yes.

9730 Henry: Yes. From what you were saying earlier (.) with your parents not being able to  
9731 support you when you were at uni (.) that must have been really difficult for you.

9732 Violeta: Yes.

9733 Henry: From my understanding (.) a lot of parents do help their kids out when they do go  
9734 to uni.

9735 Violeta: Yes (.) yes. I've got an older sister (.) then it's me (.) and a younger brother. So (.)  
9736 obviously (.) because it's only four years between me and my brother (.) he was at  
9737 college. Yes (.) he started college and I was at uni (.) so obviously (.) I had to pay  
9738 for all the books and everything else at college. For two of them working (.) a  
9739 wage (.) I don't know if it was like (.) I think I'm pushing it saying £300 a month.

9740 Henry: Gosh.

9741 Violeta: Yes (.) so paying the uni fees for my brother (.) and he's a boy. He needs money to  
9742 go out.

9743 Henry: What jobs are your parents doing?

9744 Violeta: Well (.) they don't work now.

9745 Henry: They don't work? Were they made unemployed from their jobs (.) then?

9746 Violeta: Yes. My mum (.) well (.) she's not very well (.) so she can't work. And my dad  
9747 has just been signed off by the doctor (.) so no chance.

9748 Henry: And is that because of health (.) then? To do with his job?

9749 Violeta: Yes (.) yes.

9750 Henry: What was he doing before (.) then?

9751 Violeta: In a factory (.) which kind of (.) not steel. It's not cars. All these metals things and  
9752 stuff. I don't know what he was doing.

9753 Henry: Mm (.) so there was sort of a lot of pollution and heavy lifting and a really manual  
9754 job?

9755 Violeta: Yes (.) yes (.) and always standing. That's why he's got a problem with his leg (.)  
9756 now. Thrombosis (.) or whatever that's called.

9757 Henry: God. It's tough going (.) because I mean (.) is there a lot of support for them?  
9758 Because (.) I mean (.)

9759 Violeta: No.  
9760

9761 Henry: What's the political scene like in Romania? Obviously here (.) and in France and  
9762 Germany (.) there's sort of austerity programmes (.) isn't there (.) and government  
9763 cutting the money that they spend on things? Is the same happening in Romania (.)  
9764 as well?

9765 Violeta: Yes (.) but there (.) they're just cutting everything out=

9766 Henry: =Because there's hardly anything to begin with (.) there's nothing?

9767 Violeta: No. I don't even know how much they get a month (.) but obviously (.) they don't  
9768 have to pay rent (.) because it's their own house. So (.) all the income that comes  
9769 (.) they just spend it on bills (.) and that's it.

9770 Henry: It's a real challenge (.) isn't it? Because (.) I mean (.)

9771 Violeta: Yes.

9772 Henry: How do your parents feel about all this (.) then? They must be quite angry with the  
9773 situation.

9774 Violeta: Yes (.) yes.

9775 Henry: I sort of feel angry listening to it.

9776 Violeta: Yes. My mum (.) she's really upset. But then obviously (.) now (.) after so long (.)  
9777 she realises there's nothing she can do. Obviously (.) she wants me to go back  
9778 home (.) but doing what? I don't want to go and sit there next to her for the rest of  
9779 my life.

9780 Henry: Mm. Have they ever thought about moving here? Is that something that they'd  
9781 consider?

9782 Violeta: My mum (.) she'd come tomorrow (.) but my dad (.) no. They came here for  
9783 Christmas about two or three years ago.

9784 Henry: Oh (.) when she learnt the Yorkshire puddings? Yes.

9785 Violeta: Yes. My mum (.) I think she would come just to be with me (.) but my dad (.) no.  
9786 He said no=

9787 Henry: =He's close to the town that he grew up in (.) and?

9788 Violeta: Yes. He said not even that (.) I won't bring him here again ((laughter)).

9789 Henry: Really?

9790 Violeta: No (.) he won't come. For him (.) my dad (.) obviously (.) has never left home.  
 9791 Well (.) apart from coming here for two weeks (.) I think. It was his first time of  
 9792 seeing all these different people. I think my mum would be all right (.) just to  
 9793 know she's here with me. But my dad would be like (.) "No (.) I want to go back."

9794 Henry: Not even having your sister here (.) as well?

9795 Violeta: My sister is here (.) yes.

9796 Henry: That's what I mean. That's not enough of a pull for your dad to sort of (.) that both  
 9797 his girls are here (.) and?

9798 Violeta: No.

9799 Henry: Wow. He really loves (.) really feels safe (.) where he is (.) then.

9800 Violeta: Yes (.) yes.

9801 Henry: Is that something that you and your sister have talked about?

9802 Violeta: No (.) because I said (.) obviously (.) since they've been off (.) you know (.) not  
 9803 very well (.) I told my mum they could come and live here with me. But my dad  
 9804 says no. Because (.) he said (.) "What's the point of coming here?" Because he  
 9805 won't be able to work. First (.) he can't speak English at all (.) and then doing  
 9806 what here? So (.) he said he might as well just stay at home (.) whatever income  
 9807 they get (.) just pay the bills (.) and that's it.

9808 Henry: Oh. I really hope that things improve for them. Is there a sense of=

9809 Violeta: =Yes (.) probably in the next 100 years.

9810 Henry: I hope it's sooner (.) because there's a sense there that really there should be  
 9811 support (.) especially for situations where their health is obviously aggravated by a  
 9812 job they've done. What is it? Thrombosis (.) did you say it was?

9813 Violeta: Yes.

9814 Henry: I mean (.) it's not come out of nowhere ((laughter)).

9815 Violeta: I know.

9816 Henry: It's usually aggravated by something (.) isn't it? Gosh. Tough going.

9817 Violeta: Well (.) yes. That's Romania for you.

9818 Henry: Yes. The one thing that I always end up getting captivated by (.) when I'm  
 9819 researching this (.) is the landscape.

9820 Violeta: Mm (.) yes.

9821 Henry: Absolutely beautiful country. I mean (.) where you are (.) it isn't that far from the  
 9822 (.) is it the Carpathian Mountains?

9823 Violeta: Mm (.) yes (.) yes.

9824 Henry: So (.) there's quite a lot of (.)

9825 Violeta: It's a beautiful country to go on holiday to (.) and obviously (.) if you can afford it.  
 9826 But to live in Romania (.) it's so expensive. The life in Romania is exactly like  
 9827 here (.) but then the wage is just below.

9828 Henry: Mm.

9829 Violeta: So (.) it is. Black Sea (.) that's nice. There are so many places to visit.

9830 Henry: Have you visited quite a lot of the country yourself?

9831 Violeta: No (.) I have been nowhere in Romania (.) honestly (.) apart from uni.

9832 Henry: Oh. It would be nice (.) I suppose then (.) to go back and visit some of these places  
9833 (.) then.

9834 Violeta: Yes. I'm going this year (.) when I'm going back (.) now.

9835 Henry: Are you? How long for?

9836 Violeta: I'm going for two weeks. My mum and dad don't know.

9837 Henry: Oh (.) don't they?

9838 Violeta: No ((laughter)).

9839 Henry: Oh (.) that will be nice for them. You'll just knock on the door (.) "Hello."

9840 Violeta: Yes. I did say to my mum (.) well (.) she thinks I'm going in September or October  
9841 (.) because obviously I've just moved (.) so I can't afford to go now. But I booked  
9842 the tickets before I moved (.) before I got the house. I'm going on 15<sup>th</sup> June (.) so I  
9843 kind of said to her (.) "Oh (.) I'll surprise you." But she said to me (.) "Oh (.) don't  
9844 do that (.) because I'll just be on the floor." Like (.) oops.

9845 Henry: Yes. I was just thinking if I did that to my mum (.) there'd be tears (.) there'd be  
9846 all sorts. Is that what your mum would be like ((laughter))?

9847 Violeta: Yes. To be honest (.) I think I would find her on the floor (.) so I think I have to  
9848 tell her.

9849 Henry: Oh. I tell you what would probably be the thing. You'll be on the plane (.) and  
9850 you'll have no reception (.) and she'll be calling you all day (.) like (.) "Why aren't  
9851 you answering your phone?" ((laughter)) By the time you get there (.) she's like (.)  
9852 "I knew you were coming (.) because you weren't answering your phone." Yes (.)  
9853 it will be nice (.) then (.) I suppose (.) won't it? To surprise them. But then I  
9854 suppose it's a matter of finding some time (.) if you have got any in that two weeks  
9855 (.) to go and d[o something]

9856 Violeta: [Oh (.) yes (.) I am] going (.) because I booked already  
9857 (.) so yes.

9858 Henry: Have you? So you're going to go somewhere else whilst you're there (.) then?

9859 Violeta: Yes (.) yes. For the weekend (.) yes (.) because I can't go for longer. I can't get  
9860 away from my mum longer ((laughter)).

9861 Henry: No (.) no.

9862 Violeta: Or if I do (.) then she's going to have to come with me. I can't leave without her  
9863 ((laughter)).

9864 Henry: Yes (.) and then there's your dad to think of.

9865 Violeta: Yes.

9866 Henry: What about your brother (.) then? Is he at uni at the moment (.) then?

9867 Violeta: No (.) my brother came=  
9868 Henry: =Is he here (.) as well?  
9869 Violeta: Yes (.) he came here two (.)  
9870 Henry: Oh. Yes (.) because he's four years younger. Of course he's not still going to be at  
9871 uni.  
9872 Violeta: He came here (.) I think (.) two years ago.  
9873 Henry: Right (.) and is he in Sheffield as well (.) now?  
9874 Violeta: Yes (.) he's living with me now.  
9875 Henry: Oh (.) he's living with you? Oh gosh (.) sorry. I didn't know that.  
9876 Violeta: He says until he's finding a new place (.) but it's going to take a while for him to  
9877 find a new place.  
9878 Henry: So (.) a little bit like when you were with your sister. It's the same sort of (.) just  
9879 until you settle in.  
9880 Violeta: Yes. Well (.) that's what he says (.) but=  
9881 Henry: =Do you think he'll end up staying (.) then?  
9882 Violeta: Yes (.) unless I kick him out ((laughter)).  
9883 Henry: Is he working at the moment?  
9884 Violeta: Yes.  
9885 Henry: What's he doing (.) then?  
9886 Violeta: He's in a factory (.) but I can't remember the name of the factory. Somewhere like  
9887 ((name removed)) (.) I don't know the name of it.  
9888 Henry: Hopefully it's warmer than the one you were working in.  
9889 Violeta: Yes (.) yes (.) because he only goes to work in a T-shirt.  
9890 Henry: Does he? Gosh. Mind you (.) men and women do sometimes feel the heat  
9891 differently (.) don't they? In my experience (.) the office when I'm there I'm there  
9892 in a short-sleeved shirt and I'm fine (.) [and ((laughter)) ]  
9893 Violeta: [jumpers ((laughter))]  
9894 Henry: There must be a body thing. We're more padded or something. I can't. So (.) yes  
9895 (.) he's working in a factory (.) then (.) presumably trying to save some money to  
9896 move out (.) then?  
9897 Violeta: Yes. Well (.) he's been saying that for the last two years.  
9898 Henry: ((laughter)) My brother's like that. You know they're not going to do it.  
9899 Violeta: Yes. Now he said to me (.) because I said (.) "When do you want to move out?" –  
9900 "Oh (.) when I find the right place." – "So (.) what do you want to do next?" – "Oh  
9901 (.) I've seen this new car I want." – "Oh (.) okay." Obviously (.) whatever he's got  
9902 (.) any savings=  
9903 Henry: =He's not going to live in the car (.) then.

9904 Violeta: No.

9905 Henry: Because (.) I mean (.) obviously not thinking about moving out.

9906 Violeta: Yes.

9907 Henry: Oh. That just adds even more depth to the situation with your parents at home (.)  
 9908 then (.) because all the kids have moved here (.) in Sheffield. It seems almost like  
 9909 the natural step that they would come (.) as well.

9910 Violeta: Yes. I think my mum (.) that's what she's expecting. Well (.) she can come and  
 9911 live with me if she wants. She's not going to leave my dad behind.

9912 Henry: No. Needs to persuade your dad.

9913 Violeta: Yes. No (.) he's not coming.

9914 Henry: Oh.

9915 Violeta: I even asked (.) I think it was (.) yes (.) last year (.) for Christmas (.) I asked them  
 9916 to come here (.) because my sister just had a second baby (.) and they've never  
 9917 seen my niece yet. So (.) I asked them to come for Christmas. I even offered to buy  
 9918 the tickets (.) but my dad said (.) "No. Buy the tickets if you want to (.) but I'm not  
 9919 coming." So (.) my dad doesn't even want to come here to see his granddaughter.

9920 Henry: Gosh (.) and has the recent change with the movement not sort of shifted  
 9921 anything? As of January 2014 (.) you don't have to get visas or anything like that  
 9922 anymore.

9923 Violeta: No.

9924 Henry: No (.) because you'd think=

9925 Violeta: =Even when they came (.) yes. Before (.) what (.) 2014? It was last year?

9926 Henry: I think it was (.) yes (.) 1<sup>st</sup> January.

9927 Violeta: Oh (.) yes. There was an advert on TV about Romanians coming here and claiming  
 9928 benefits. I don't know how many millions (.) and then on 1<sup>st</sup> January (.) everybody  
 9929 was waiting at the airport and only one came. That was a nice surprise.

9930 Henry: Yes (.) Victor. Yes. I watched it very closely at the time. Is that something that  
 9931 sticks in your mind (.) as quite?

9932 Violeta: Yes (.) because I had (.) well (.) not an argument. But one of the girls at the  
 9933 hospital (.) she was talking with somebody else (.) and I heard them. And I  
 9934 [laughed] (.) because I thought (.) "Well (.) you can talk. Just because I'm  
 9935 Romanian too doesn't mean you have to change your view." Then she was saying  
 9936 something about (.) "They're coming here and claiming benefits." I was like (.)  
 9937 "Well (.) I presume some of them (.) they do." Then she said she saw in the  
 9938 newspaper (.) I think it's the Sun (.) one of them (.) or the Daily (.) I don't know.  
 9939 One of the newspapers.

9940 Henry: A trustworthy one ((laughter))

9941 Violeta: Yes (.) yes. Where even like for Romania (.) two flights (.) two flights at the same  
 9942 time because there are so many people who wanted to come. Not like (.) not even  
 9943 in a million years. The cost per ticket was somewhere around £1 (.)000. To  
 9944 actually have that amount of money in Romania to pay for a ticket (.) one way (.)



9945 to go somewhere where you don't know where you're going (.) no job (.) no place  
9946 to live (.) anywhere else (.) for £1 (.)000. That's not going to happen.

9947 Henry: No.

9948 Violeta: Nobody ever would pay that much. I mean (.) if you want to come over here for a  
9949 better life (.) you can't afford (.) first of all (.) to pay that much for a ticket.

9950 Henry: Mm.

9951 Violeta: And then (.) obviously (.) a week later (.) two weeks later (.) there was a  
9952 newspaper article about the flight. And that flight actually was going to Dubai  
9953 somewhere. Yes.

9954 Henry: This is the thing (.) isn't it?

9955 Violeta: Yes.

9956 Henry: It sounds like (.) it's a very curious thing (.) isn't it? Whether people that have read  
9957 these things have thought about (.) like you said (.) the practical side of it. Like if  
9958 someone could afford that flight (.) that could actually (.) you know (.) they don't  
9959 know where they're going to. It makes it sound totally unattractive as an option (.)  
9960 as opposed to the side you normally hear about (.) which is welfare (.) benefits.

9961 Violeta: Yes (.) yes.

9962 Henry: What about Nigel Farage? Because I suppose even if you don't watch television (.)  
9963 it's the sort of thing that (.)

9964 Violeta: No (.) I've seen him once. I don't know anything about him (.) to be honest. I  
9965 know he's with the immigration (.) and I know he's said something about (.)  
9966 "What would you do if you lived next to a Romanian?" Or something like that. So  
9967 (.) when I moved in the new house (.) I told my next door neighbour that I'm  
9968 Romanian so she knows (.) before I get any windows smashed ((laughter)). No (.)  
9969 she's fine. She's all right.

9970 Henry: Mm (.) yes. How did that conversation feel? Presumably (.) you felt like you sort  
9971 of had to tell them.

9972 Violeta: Yes. It just feels like you can't really live your life. I just feel like I have to tell  
9973 everyone that (.) "Yes (.) I'm not British. Yes (.) I have been here for eight years."  
9974 It does feel a bit weird (.) because you have to explain yourself every time.

9975 Henry: Mm (.) and you can bet that that person you're telling has never had to do that.  
9976 That's the thing (.) isn't it?

9977 Violeta: You know (.) I could easily just say that I'm Polish. Probably that's better. But  
9978 then it's like (.) why? I'm not Polish. I'm Romanian (.) so.

9979 Henry: Yes. It's a really powerful point you make (.) really. Like you say (.) you've not  
9980 really heard a lot of Nigel Farage or whatever. Because obviously (.) I'm  
9981 researching this (.) I've had to listen to a lot ((laughter)). But the sense that even  
9982 though you've not seen that much of him (.) and yet those sorts of things that he's  
9983 done still have that impact. The thing he said was (.) "I would be worried (.) and  
9984 you should be too (.) if a gang of Romanian men moved in next door."

9985 Violeta: Yes.

9986 Henry: It's a totally warped version of something that might have happened somewhere (.)  
9987 once. And in the end (.) that's sort of become the thing (.) hasn't it (.) that people  
9988 then become worried about?

9989 Violeta: Before I moved into this house (.) my landlady (.) me and my brother (.) we'd  
9990 been to a party. No (.) that's (.) well (.) since he came. My landlady (.) since my  
9991 brother came (.) when I met her (.) "I've been to a party with my brother." And  
9992 then you can't tell that my brother's Romanian. He doesn't have our accent.  
9993 Everybody thinks he's British. Don't ask me why.

9994 Henry: Really? Wow.

9995 Violeta: I know (.) and then she was talking to him (.) to my brother (.) thinking that he was  
9996 my boyfriend. Then she asked him how long we'd been together (.) and he just  
9997 looked at her like (.) "Well (.) you don't have to know we are brother and sister. I  
9998 don't have to explain my life." Then she started saying that (.) "She's Romanian  
9999 (.) she came over here taking our jobs." Well (.) if you want to work (.) get off  
10000 your backside and go and work. She's not working (.) obviously. So (.) whose job  
10001 I took (.) I don't know (.) because she's never even tried to get a job.

10002 Henry: No. It's strange (.) isn't it (.) that someone would be so protective about a job  
10003 they've never applied for?

10004 Violeta: Yes. Obviously (.) after she found out he's my brother (.) it's just kind of like (.)  
10005 "Oops."

10006 Henry: I wonder how (.) the accent thing (.) how people (.)

10007 Violeta: Mm.

10008 Henry: You say he's been here for two years (.) was it?

10009 Violeta: Yes. I don't know if it's longer (.) but I think it's two years.

10010 Henry: Mm. Accents are a funny thing (.) aren't they? Sometimes it can be really thick for  
10011 people and never sort of go away. (.) After 30 years (.) they've still got the accent.  
10012 Other people can just sort of pick it up as they go. It's=

10013 Violeta: =Yes. I've been here for eight years (.) and I've still got my accent.

10014 Henry: They are very strange things (.) aren't they? Let's think. Have I got any more  
10015 questions? I suppose the last thing I'd like to ask (.) it's quite a broad thing (.)  
10016 really (.) about how you feel about (.) obviously (.) with Romania (.) the UK (.)  
10017 France (.) Germany (.) they're all part of the EU. What does being European mean  
10018 to you? Does it have any sort of personal meaning?

10019 Violeta: No.

10020 Henry: You know (.) with the recent Romania being part of the EU now (.) and you can  
10021 move around. Is it something that has any (.) No=

10022 Violeta: =No (.) because it's the first time I actually left home.

10023 Henry: Yes.

10024 Violeta: When [I did move (.) I c]ame straight here.

10025 Henry: [Yes (.) I underst]and that You've answered it really (.) haven't you?

10026 Violeta: So (.) to be honest (.) yes (.) because I didn't get the chance to go anywhere else (.)  
10027 to see how life is in other countries (.) so (.) to me (.) it doesn't make much  
10028 difference. Well (.) probably (.) if you think about it (.) it does (.) because you  
10029 needed to apply for a visa before (.) to be able to come here. So (.) yes (.) in a way  
10030 (.) it does. It does make a difference.

10031 Henry: Mm (.) the sense (.) I suppose (.) that it's at least easier (.) isn't it?

10032 Violeta: Yes.

10033 Henry: How long did you have to wait to get the visa to come through (.) then?

10034 Violeta: No (.) when I came here (.) I didn't need a visa. I came in 2007.

10035 Henry: Of course (.) yes.

10036 Violeta: When I came (.) because I came here for a holiday (.) and then when I came here  
10037 (.) it was allowed (.) well (.) you could come without a visa (.) but you needed to  
10038 apply for a permit.

10039 Henry: Mm. Did it take you a long time to get the permit?

10040 Violeta: I don't know.

10041 Henry: Do you not remember?

10042 Violeta: No. I think (.) yes (.) about six months.

10043 Henry: It took a while to come through?

10044 Violeta: Yes.

10045 Henry: Yes. That's the same story as I'm hearing across the board. People saying that it's  
10046 not hard to apply for it. They just take forever.

10047 Violeta: Yes ((laughter)).

10048 Henry: And that is just the typical thing (.) isn't it (.) with all this sort of like-? You know  
10049 (.) when you're having to send these forms off (.) it feels like forever you're  
10050 waiting for them.

10051 Violeta: Yes (.) six months (.) yes.

10052 Henry: God (.) six months. That must have been a day (.) when you got it back. "Finally.  
10053 About time." ((laughter)).

10054 Violeta: Yes.

10055 Henry: So (.) I don't know if there's anything else you'd like to add (.) anything else that  
10056 you'd like to tell me about that I've not asked. I've just asked questions as I've  
10057 gone along (.) mainly (.) but yes (.) I don't know if there's anything else.

10058 Violeta: No (.) unless you've got any more questions.

10059 Henry: I don't think so. I think we've more or less covered (.) really (.) the things I wanted  
10060 to ask you. A lot of the things that you were saying (.) I was trying to think of  
10061 questions as we went (.) because a lot of the things you were saying were sort of  
10062 before (.) and we were jumping around. But I think you've covered it. Really  
10063 interesting stuff. I really appreciate your time. ((transcript ends))

*Transcript 10: Gheorghe*

- 10064 Henry: Put these on then. Right (.) that's all sorted then. So (.) we kick off then. Could you  
10065 tell me a little bit about yourself then? In Sheffield at the moment. How long have  
10066 you been living here then?
- 10067 Gheorghe: Right so (.) I moved in Sheffield in September 2010 just because my wife decided  
10068 to go to university and we had the choice in between Northampton (.) Canterbury  
10069 or Sheffield and we said (.) "Yes (.) Sheffield (.) North England. We don't know  
10070 anything about it (.) let's just find out." I still remember (.) you know right (.) we  
10071 drove up on a weekend (.) on a Saturday/Sunday (.) rainy day and we said (.) "Yes  
10072 (.) we like this city (.) we move in."
- 10073 Henry: Right.
- 10074 Gheorghe: So (.) next thing (.) we just pack the lorry and we just came up.
- 10075 Henry: So it was largely shaped by=
- 10076 Gheorghe: =I mean (.) largely it was shaped by my wife's decision that she wanted to carry on  
10077 with her studies and you know (.) I said (.) "Yes (.) you've got my full support (.)  
10078 make a loan (.) we're going to try (.)" even if it was a bit hard for me because I had  
10079 to give up my job (.) you know (.) and start again around here.
- 10080 Henry: Yes. Where were you moving from at that point?
- 10081 Gheorghe: I was working for Morrisons at that point. A HGV driver. Maybe I better mention  
10082 it (.) you see (.) I am a professional driver so I was working for them. I'd been  
10083 promised (.) sort of (.) a transfer up to Wakefield which would have been helpful  
10084 for me. You know (.) at the last moment they said (.) "Sorry (.) there are no  
10085 vacancies for you." So I'd be left jobless (.) you know (.) with the student loan to  
10086 cover then=
- 10087 Henry: =How did you meet that then? Have you found another job doing something else  
10088 then?
- 10089 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I found some agency work (.) just one day here (.) one day there. But after-  
10090 in January actually (.) I found the job where I am today. I've been in that company  
10091 five years now (.) we are very happy. Fingers crossed.
- 10092 Henry: Yes (.) so you're still doing the driving now?
- 10093 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I am. I don't think I'll give up very soon to be honest (.) because you don't  
10094 need a degree for it and it's quite well-paid. ((laughter))
- 10095 Henry: Yes and I suppose that's the thing (.) isn't it? Like you said (.) it (.) sort of (.) has to  
10096 suit your lifestyle as well (.) doesn't it?
- 10097 Gheorghe: Not really. It's not really what I wanted to be (.) to be honest (.) in my life. It was  
10098 just a moment decision (.) when actually the decision (.) I took it when I was in  
10099 England (.) you know (.) I was in London. Me and my wife (.) we were just at the  
10100 beginning of our relation (.) not married yet (.) you know. One of my friends (.)  
10101 "Oh (.) your driving is actually good (.) why don't you become a professional one?  
10102 You know (.) you can earn so much money." I said (.) "Yes (.) wow (.) that's a  
10103 good idea." I just took it on (.) you know. When I first came to England in 2003 (.)  
10104 I had absolutely no skills (.) nothing. I was just me and a little bag. Now we have a  
10105 mortgage (.) a house (.) a car (.) a lifestyle (.) friends.
- 10106 Henry: Come a long way.

10107 Gheorghe: Yes.

10108 Henry: If you could let me pick that apart-

10109 Gheorghe: Yes (.) maybe I was a bit too quick.

10110 Henry: No (.) it's fine (.) it's a good story (.) because of course we can get lost in some of  
10111 the details so it's good to have that. It's fine. 2003 then.

10112 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I first came in 2003 as an au pair. As a babysitter. Simply. Nothing else.  
10113 £50 a week and that was all the money.

10114 Henry: Yes and so you were living with the family?

10115 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I was live in au pair (.) you know (.) taking care of the kids. Absolutely  
10116 loved the family in South London in Croydon. Two little boys. Had to take them to  
10117 school (.) make them tea and it was funny because our English in Romania (.)  
10118 what we learn in school (.) it's not the British English (.) it's maybe the American  
10119 one. I had no idea what tea means (.) yes? So boys coming (.) first day of school (.)  
10120 coming home and they expect tea from me and I make tea. Pots (.) proper tea (.)  
10121 fruit teas. They are looking at me (.) "We're hungry (.) we want tea." I said (.)  
10122 "Well (.) if you want tea (.) just drink it." The lady comes home (.) "I don't  
10123 understand your boys (.) they don't speak English. They asked me to make tea (.) I  
10124 made tea (.) you know (.) they're disappointed." She started explaining (.) "Oh (.)  
10125 sorry (.) what we mean by tea is that" you know. "Oh right (.) okay."

10126 Henry: It is one of those silly old words (.) isn't it? =

10127 Gheorghe: =The thing is (.) you don't know the habits of the people and I think this is how  
10128 you learn actually.

10129 Henry: Even in my family (.) my parents would say tea (.) but then they mean dinnertime  
10130 but then my grandparents say tea and they mean lunchtime.

10131 Gheorghe: Yes and after we move up to Sheffield and here it is again. Different.

10132 Henry: There's different ways.

10133 Gheorghe: I'm still confused anyway. It's one thing which I can't pick it up simply.

10134 Henry: No (.) just trying to stay away from the word. So you're an au pair. How long were  
10135 you doing that for then?

10136 Gheorghe: I've done it for about six months nearly (.) after I decided to move out of the  
10137 family. I had their full support but I just wanted to help my own life (.) you know.  
10138 I moved out (.) I've been self-employed (.) working everywhere until 2005 when I  
10139 had to go home (.) unfortunately (.) for a two year break. I'm not very proud of that  
10140 because I was naughty but that's it.

10141 Henry: I see (.) so it was to do with Visa side of things?

10142 Gheorghe: With the Visa side of things. I mean (.) it was a very stupid decision. I decided to  
10143 overstay the Visa (.) you know. Obviously (.) being too honest (.) after three weeks  
10144 I was caught (.) straight away.

10145 Henry: That's sometimes-

10146 Gheorghe: It's a funny story (.) you know. For somebody who has been deported and my wife  
10147 now is actually an immigration officer and now I'm a British citizen. How life is  
10148 turning.

10149 Henry: You've sort of seen all the different things there is to know.

10150 Gheorghe: Yes. I still remember the days when the guys came there and said (.) "Wow (.)  
 10151 sorry we have to arrest you now (.) you're such a nice guy and you've done  
 10152 absolutely nothing (.) you're so innocent and so stupid." They told me (.) "Why  
 10153 didn't you move simply? You could have avoided all this." But maybe it was a  
 10154 good thing to helping (.) you know. I've learnt my lesson. I said (.) "Yes (.) the  
 10155 legal way (.) the safe way is the best." Sometimes you have to learn the hard way.

10156 Henry: Yes (.) the mistakes. It's a very sagely wise thing to look back and think-

10157 Gheorghe: As I say (.) it might have been a very good thing because this has helped what's  
 10158 strengthen our relation between me and [((name removed))]. You see (.) I met  
 10159 ((name removed)) only one day before being arrested and deported.

10160 Henry: Really?

10161 Gheorghe: Yes (.) only one evening.

10162 Henry: Wow. What was the situation there then? Was it just in a pub somewhere or sort of  
 10163 (.) out with friends?

10164 Gheorghe: No. ((name removed)) also came in 2005 as an au pair (.) you see. She was only 18  
 10165 at the time and she just came here also with her little bag and you know (.) full of  
 10166 hopes and dreams and everything. She didn't know anyone. She started emailing  
 10167 people. All the London Romanians au pairs. At that time (.) we had very few  
 10168 Romanians in UK. I was only one to answer and I decided almost certainly (.) "I  
 10169 will rent a car and I'll come and meet you (.)" because she was living somewhere  
 10170 near Luton Airport. I had to drive all the way up here (.) I took her down to  
 10171 London. I show her London for the day. In the morning I was arrested.

10172 Henry: Wow.

10173 Gheorghe: We didn't see each other until next Christmas when she decided to visit Romania.

10174 Henry: If you don't mind me asking (.) was there a connection when you met?

10175 Gheorghe: Yes (.) straight away. The moment I have seen her I knew (.) she's going to be my  
 10176 wife (.) whatever's going to happen.

10177 Henry: Wow (.) well that's fantastic. Also (.) bittersweet.

10178 Gheorghe: I think we are off subject now.

10179 Henry: No. If you don't want to talk about it (.) that's absolutely fine. It's just this sense  
 10180 that I suppose (.) the day before and you're obviously having to go back to  
 10181 Romania. Did you have to wait a certain period?

10182 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I mean I was in the removal centre for about two weeks.

10183 Henry: What was that experience like?

10184 Gheorghe: It wasn't too bad (.) don't worry.

10185 Henry: You hear stories (.) don't you (.) about some of these places=

10186 Gheorghe: =You see this on television. I was there (.) I experienced it myself. You get fed (.)  
 10187 you have a proper warm place to sleep. No problem. They're just waiting for the  
 10188 next flight. That's all. Nobody rude (.) nobody's pushing you (.) calling you nasty  
 10189 things (.) no (.) not at all.

10190 Henry: So it's just a matter of waiting 'til the next flight? Did you have to wait back in  
10191 Romania until a certain period had expired to reapply for a Visa then?

10192 Gheorghe: Yes. I didn't want to apply for a new Visa because I knew for sure (.) 2007 (.) we  
10193 join the European Union so that's it (.) it's no problem.

10194 Henry: So you just waited until that period started.

10195 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I mean in a way (.) back there (.) I said (.) "You know what (.) if I done a  
10196 mistake at least I will go into study (.)" so I joined university in Romania. But  
10197 come 2007 (.) oops. Both me and ((name)) (.) we're actually students and we just  
10198 left. Let's go back to England (.) it's a better life there. We both know so.

10199 Henry: Yes (.) so it's interesting (.) because from what you're saying (.) a lot of these  
10200 experiences you have (.) they seem quite entwined with what ((name removed))  
10201 wanted to do. Not in terms of just what she wants (.) but you were very much  
10202 focused on doing it as a couple.

10203 Gheorghe: Well I mean (.) when I first came (.) going back to 2003 (.) I came very  
10204 determined to England (.) to make a life for me. I don't know (.) open up my own  
10205 business or you know (.) full of dreams (.) everything. For sure I wanted a better a  
10206 life. I made higher aspirations (.) that's all. I just simply really like it. I said (.) "I  
10207 will give everything to go back to England (.)" which I'm very happy I've done it  
10208 and I'm really happy now here.

10209 Henry: Yes. I suppose it's that moment when you first arrived though (.) it must have been  
10210 quite a big thing to take in.

10211 Gheorghe: Oh yes (.) every day (.) you know (.) I was opening my mouth (.) it was a surprise  
10212 coming out. Everybody's looking to me (.) "Are you crazy? You don't know where  
10213 you live." I was looking at the houses (.) I was not custom with this British thing.  
10214 Houses are quite smallish compared to other countries and everything. I was (.)  
10215 "Oh people must be very nice if they have very little fences and houses are so  
10216 close to each other (.)" you know? How do you know it's actually short of space  
10217 and everything? It's all these shocks. As the story with the tea and you know.

10218 Henry: Were you quite keen on (.) sort of (.) chatting to people and getting to know  
10219 different people=

10220 Gheorghe: =Oh yes. I mean (.) Monday to Friday obviously (.) I had to take care of the house  
10221 and the kids and the boys. All the weekends I was in central London. All the  
10222 museums and everything (.) you know? Every week and I had a plan (.) I want to  
10223 see that (.) I want to see that (.) I want to this and I want to learn as much as  
10224 possible about people (.) culture and everything. I discovered all museums and I  
10225 feel (.) "Oh my god (.) it's an open ticket (.)" you know.

10226 Henry: That must have been quite a good experience (.) to just immerse yourself in-

10227 Gheorghe: Plus (.) you know (.) weekends where [we could all au pairs had different  
10228 addresses from different au pairs. When we could just meet (.) three (.) four of us  
10229 (.) five of us and go together and visit things. This is how I started to discover the  
10230 country (.) the people (.) habits (.) customs.

10231 Henry: What about with the two boys you were looking after? Did you find that you were  
10232 learning quite a lot from them as well then?

10233 Gheorghe: Oh yes.

10234 Henry: That must have been quite=

10235 Gheorghe: =It was very nice.

10236 Henry: How old are they?

10237 Gheorghe: I think Toby (.) he's 18 now or something like that. I think he was 3½ and the other  
10238 boy was 6. He was just starting school.

10239 Henry: Wow (.) so you sort of=

10240 Gheorghe: =They were alright. They were very nice. I mean (.) the older boy is studying at  
10241 Warwick University. He's studying maths.

10242 Henry: Maths? He's clearly a clever guy then.

10243 Gheorghe: He's a very clever boy (.) yes. The little one (.) I think he's still in college or  
10244 something like that. He's very into rugby.

10245 Henry: Into rugby. Let me just=

10246 Gheorghe: =(sorry off topic)

10247 Henry: No (.) no (.) it's absolutely fine. Sometimes the questions aren't always nicely  
10248 married over. What about before you came to the UK? Did you know anything  
10249 about what the UK was like (.) before you came as an au pair?

10250 Gheorghe: I mean (.) general things mostly (.) you know. Seventh economy in the world (.)  
10251 ex-colonial power (.) fifth military power in the world. All these general things (.)  
10252 nothing else. Very general things (.) not something particular about it. The thing  
10253 about England (.) I always imagine there are old ladies and gentlemen and they are  
10254 all polite and nice. The moment I saw people shouting (and swearing) I said (.)  
10255 "Well that's not very English (.) isn't it?"

10256 Henry: That's interesting because (.) I suppose something else like what you were saying  
10257 what you're taught in schools (.) is different to what you're=

10258 Gheorghe: =For somebody who's never been to England (.) you have a very good image. I  
10259 mean (.) I had a very good image about England which when I first came in (.) the  
10260 first two weeks (.) a little bit started to fall apart (.) you know? I said (.) "Oh (.)  
10261 that's not the real England I read in newspapers and magazines or in history books  
10262 especially." I'm very passionate about history. I love history absolutely.

10263 Henry: Something we have in common.

10264 Gheorghe: Oh yes. Good.

10265 Henry: That's something I'm trying to do. I've been trying to do in recent times is learn my  
10266 Romanian history. I'm still trying to put the pieces together because there's quite a  
10267 lot going on (.) isn't there?

10268 Gheorghe: That's complicated.

10269 Henry: It's definitely an interesting thing when you say about how knowing so much  
10270 about- you said you knew the basic things about the country.

10271 Gheorghe: Yes (.) basically it's a tough country (.) people are very hardworking and people  
10272 can endure a lot. Sorry (.) I'm nearly swearing now (.) this is my colleagues from  
10273 work.

10274 Henry: There's no problem with swearing. It's only me that's going to be transcribing this.



10275 Gheorghe: You mean from second world war and all these sacrifices and all this  
10276 determination and (.) "Oh (.) let's fight for something we believe in." That says  
10277 something about people. The fabric of these people. You are a tough nation. I'm  
10278 really happy I'm part of it now.

10279 Henry: Yes (.) you were saying you're a British citizen. So you've gone through the  
10280 ceremony and all the rest of it then?

10281 Gheorghe: Yes.

10282 Henry: What was all that like for you then?

10283 Gheorghe: It was emotional. Obviously (.) it was not the part of history on the questions  
10284 because it was very simple (.) very basic. It was more emotional. I really felt (.)  
10285 "Yes (.) I am part of something I believe in now." I'm really happy that I'm part of  
10286 it. Other people or friends of myself (.) I would not apply for the city transfer  
10287 because I feel I'm Romanian but I keep trying (.) "Wait you live here (.) your life is  
10288 here after all (.) why don't you want to be part of this? Let's try to make it better for  
10289 everybody." Because given or not (.) if you're not British (.) you cannot vote. you  
10290 don't have a thing to say about it. As much as you complain that the country's not  
10291 run well.

10292 Henry: You still retained your Romanian citizenship as well then (.) so you've got the dual  
10293 nationality?

10294 Gheorghe: Yes. Even if I'm thinking to give up the Romanian one because it's absolutely  
10295 useless at the moment.

10296 Henry: I suppose then (.) if the UK leaves the EU (.) that's something that=

10297 Gheorghe: =It wouldn't bother me to be honest. I will always be Romanian. I cannot deny  
10298 that. I was born there (.) isn't it so?

10299 Henry: Yes. Really interesting. Do you go back to Romania very often?

10300 Gheorghe: We haven't been to Romania for nearly two years now. We are going this year for  
10301 two weeks (.) just because we have a wedding (.) a friend of us.

10302 Henry: I see (.) so you'll be going just for that sort of a period.

10303 Gheorghe: Mostly our parents (.) my sister (.) my niece (.) they are travelling quite often.  
10304 Nowadays (.) we use Facebook (.) phones (.) internet (.) whatever (.) it's easy to  
10305 communicate with (.) you know=

10306 Henry: =So are they in (.) sort of (.) other parts of Europe as well or are they further  
10307 afield?

10308 Gheorghe: No (.) my parents (.) they live at home. They are passionals. My niece is actually  
10309 coming in September. She's going to study at ((university)).

10310 Henry: Something about Sheffield (.) isn't there?

10311 Gheorghe: Well (.) it was her choice. She wants to study this aeroplanes and physics and I  
10312 don't know what. She's a very clever girl. I think it's something very good for this  
10313 country (.) if she's coming.

10314 Henry: Definitely. I mean the amount of (.) when it comes to maths.=

10315 Gheorghe: =She had an interview for Cambridge also but she failed it.

10316 Henry: So many people try (.) don't they? I mean (.) I know so many people that tried to  
10317 apply and it's tough.

10318 Gheorghe: She was invited for an interview which it is something.

10319 Henry: That is a massive achievement in itself.

10320 Gheorghe: I told her (.) "Don't cry (.) be very proud about it (.) you are one of those 1 (.)000  
10321 or how many there were but you're part of them (.)" you know?

10322 Henry: That's really interesting then (.) because it must be nice for you to be looking  
10323 forward to- even if you're just visiting for a time to go back and at least see  
10324 friends?

10325 Gheorghe: All my friends (.) most of them (.) either living in Germany (.) Spain (.) Italy (.)  
10326 USA (.) Canada (.) they've all left. Even my cousins and everybody. I mean (.)  
10327 from my family (.) it's only the elderly left. Parents (.) aunts (.) uncles (.) that's all.  
10328 Nothing else. Unfortunately (.) there is a big migration (.) you know (.) going.

10329 Henry: Do you think perhaps the European (.) sort of (.) side of things has just accelerated  
10330 that?

10331 Gheorghe: I think the fact that the European Union it's simply large so quickly and so  
10332 massively (.) it was not the very best thing to happen (.) maybe (.) you know?  
10333 Maybe all these things should have been a bit slower (.) you know? If it had been  
10334 (.) I wouldn't be here maybe but it was a bit too much for people. It was too a  
10335 sudden change. The way I see it (.) is one generation left there with their  
10336 mentalities and the other one (.) us (.) under 40 (.) still making a new life here and  
10337 being totally detached from what's happening. I don't know what's happening there  
10338 anymore. I'm not in touch with reality. I mean I go home to Romania (.) me and  
10339 ((name removed)) (.) and it's not only me even (.) both of us (.) we feel foreigners.  
10340 We feel like we don't belong here anymore. It's not our space. We don't know the  
10341 customs any more. We're just driving along and the police are stopping us and they  
10342 are expecting the little bribe which is customary and I don't know how to do it.

10343 Henry: I can remember ((name removed)) talking about that. She can't remember how  
10344 much (.) to who and when.

10345 Gheorghe: There's all these little things that (.) you know (.) and living here and having all  
10346 these mentalities and all these people (.) now you are really annoyed. Why do I  
10347 have to bribe you? Why do I have to pay you £10 or £5 (.) just to let me go? I don't  
10348 understand. I start driving and it develops. They try to explain (.) "Hey (.) we are  
10349 on little wages (.) this is how we make money." I said (.) "Well (.) it's not right (.)  
10350 isn't it?" It's just simply not right.

10351 Henry: Yes.

10352 Gheorghe: So I don't really feel at home in Romania at all. That's why we don't visit so often.

10353 Henry: I mean (.) understandably. It sounds like it's very clear in your mind how the  
10354 country's divided in terms of people that want to move and make a life for  
10355 themselves and those that have stayed.

10356 Gheorghe: People are looking knowing that you're coming from UK (.) or from Spain or from  
10357 Italy (.) you know? You're coming there just to visit for a while. They are looking  
10358 strangely to you. They say (.) "Ah (.) you're the one from the west with the money  
10359 and everything (.) you came here just to show off." The reality is not here. We  
10360 really work hard here to make a living and afford the lifestyle we have (.) after all.

10361 Henry: From what you're saying (.) you're living the quintessential British life now (.)  
10362 aren't you? Being married and with property=

10363 Gheorghe: =Yes (.) I have a mortgage (.) I have a second-hand car and what else (.) a job (.)  
10364 that's all. I'm not a millionaire (.) definitely (.) as they imagine maybe.

10365 Henry: Yes. That's part of thing. That's something I'd like to ask you about. Do you ever  
10366 experience then- you said you do I suppose (.) but how often do you experience  
10367 this sense of people having stereotypes or having ideas about what you're like?

10368 Gheorghe: I was the same about it. In my first years (.) when I came here (.) I thought (.)  
10369 "Everybody's rich." I mean (.) not really (.) because you get a bit of sense of how  
10370 is it balanced (.) but I was expecting people to be richer maybe. Having more  
10371 money (.) not more money (.) more disposable income for little things. Afford a  
10372 better holiday (.) better car or larger house. But living here year after year (.) I  
10373 realise now (.) how hard it is after all. It's not really a paradise. Yes (.) it's a  
10374 paradise if you make it for yourself (.) if you work hard for it (.) but this is what  
10375 we have to learn about.

10376 Henry: Yes. I suppose that's something- is it the case for you when you're talking to  
10377 people (.) that don't necessarily know anything (.) maybe they've never met who's  
10378 Romanian (.) or at least got a history with Romania and then moved here (.) that  
10379 you're having to tell them (.) "No (.) this is what-?"

10380 Gheorghe: This is the reality (.) yes. Give them a cold shower (.) you know (.) because they  
10381 think (.) "Yes (.) we come here yes (.) and there will be a job for me waiting (.)  
10382 there will be a house fully furnished and rented (.) we just have to move in." It's  
10383 not really like that.

10384 Henry: There's some powerful ideas behind some of this (.) isn't there? I don't know if you  
10385 watch The Romanians Are Coming?

10386 Gheorghe: Oh (.) I watched one.

10387 Henry: You've watched a bit of it.

10388 Gheorghe: One little episode. It was simply disgusting to be honest. They just simply showed  
10389 the wars. No offence to anybody but I can take you on the housing estate and I  
10390 think the state of the housing is even worse than Romania. If we have a stroll on  
10391 the Romanian Black Sea on the coast (.) I think we are going to find more  
10392 Lamborghinis (.) Maseratis and luxury cars than ever in Britain. It's a very big  
10393 divide there (.) very rich people and the poor people. And those like they showed  
10394 on the programme (.) the gypsies (.) they're actually minority and they're just  
10395 simply being pushed to the side by the society. Everybody says (.) "Now you are  
10396 criminals and you don't deserve anything." They being forced to live in those  
10397 accommodations and everything.

10398 Henry: It seems like there's a lot missing in some of the programmes and some of the  
10399 ways that things are being talked about.

10400 Gheorghe: They don't. It was not the essence. They didn't show the middle class Romanian  
10401 life. I don't know. Maybe my sister for example. She's a teacher at home. She has a  
10402 very normal life (.) like me here in Britain. A mortgage (.) a house (.) a job (.)  
10403 that's all. They didn't show this class which can read the newspaper (.) they know  
10404 who Nietzsche was maybe or Peter [Lowry]. I would expect to show a bit more  
10405 educated people. I mean (.) not people with graduate students and things like this  
10406 (.) but it is the working class or the middle class (.) or people like me for example.

10407 I meet Romanian drivers everywhere where I go and they speak English all of  
10408 them (.) or French or Spanish.

10409 Henry: Yes. Something that has been said previously is that there's a motive behind  
10410 showing the sorts of things they were showing (.) like on that programme (.)  
10411 because it's sensational. It's (.) sort of (.) so dramatic.

10412 Gheorghe: To be honest (.) I think (.) there is an interest from some people to fuel up this  
10413 immigration issue. The elections are coming (.) isn't it? It's very sellable (.) isn't it?  
10414 That's going to count for votes (.) after all.

10415 Henry: Something that was said to me (.) that I felt quite- is (.) I don't know to what extent  
10416 you identify with this but they'll say (.) "Well look (.) they're not looking at my life  
10417 (.) but why would they? It's not interesting (.) I'm just normal like everyone else."  
10418 There's that sense of showing the very worst or the very dramatic or the poverty  
10419 and all that. All the negative side but without showing anything else. It's just  
10420 strange isn't it (.) to think that there could be so much that has been missed?

10421 Gheorghe: I think TV companies and everybody (.) they just want to make money and as you  
10422 say (.) it's sensational (.) yes (.) they will sell. Everybody will watch it. People that  
10423 have watched it (.) they ask me (.) "Ah (.) you're Romanian." I say (.) "Yes (.) do I  
10424 look like them or what's the problem?" They couldn't comprehend (.) you know?

10425 Henry: Do you follow the news here or newspapers?

10426 Gheorghe: I watch BBC News every single evening.

10427 Henry: So you are quite engaged with this sort of stuff?

10428 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I read the Guardian (.) the Independent and what else I have? The BBC I  
10429 have on my tablet.

10430 Henry: You're exposed then to quite a lot of the (.) sort of (.) Nigel Farage type stuff all  
10431 the time then really?

10432 Gheorghe: Oh yes.

10433 Henry: How do you feel about things like that then? It's almost synonymous (.) isn't it (.)  
10434 when those things are talked about?

10435 Gheorghe: On one hand (.) he's got some very good ideas and he makes a few points (.) yes (.)  
10436 which I totally agree (.) even as an immigrant (.) I absolutely agree with him. Yes  
10437 (.) we have to do something about it. We can't just simply leave all the doors open  
10438 and let everybody come in (.) you know? It has to be a selection after all. Even in  
10439 this world (.) there is a natural selection. We have to try to find a balance. I know  
10440 it's hard. We are talking about people here (.) not animals in the jungle (.) fighting  
10441 each other and the best survives or the strongest. He makes a point after all. We  
10442 have to admit it (.) as a country. We are under strain (.) NHS is under strain (.)  
10443 there is not enough money for everything. We can't just simply nurse everyone.  
10444 That's true. We have to start looking ourselves (.) first of all.

10445 Henry: Yes (.) it's quite a big thing then really (.) because you're seeing there is perhaps  
10446 something that you see behind his argument that is more reasonable than=

10447 Gheorghe: =There is a reasonable thing behind it (.) but it's the way he's presenting it maybe  
10448 (.) is not right. It's there for (.) he knows who for that 15% which (.) he knows they  
10449 will vote for him. This is what he has to do it. After all his wife is German.

10450 Henry: That's the irony of it (.) yes. I think his heritage is in France.

10451 Gheorghe: Farage (.) yes. Doesn't really sound English.

10452 Henry: No (.) it doesn't.

10453 Gheorghe: It's more French for me.

10454 Henry: Yes (.) it's quite funny really (.) isn't it? When you think about the sort of things  
10455 that he says and compared to them (.) what he relies on in his day to day life (.)  
10456 about his kids speaking German and he doesn't mind that. But then he said  
10457 something about hearing a different language on a bus and that's a bad thing.

10458 Gheorghe: This is an everyday right (.) you know? If you go now in London (.) every time me  
10459 and ((name removed)) we go there and we visit (.) you know yes (.) we hardly hear  
10460 any English in the buses or on the streets. There is huge immigration (.) that's for  
10461 true. Maybe (.) unfortunately (.) because all this European Union enlargement (.)  
10462 maybe not the very best people are coming here. That's the problem. Maybe this is  
10463 the area we have to work. I work on doctors (.) teachers and lawyers and all the  
10464 short patients (.) there are too many people which shouldn't be here maybe.

10465 Henry: Can I just ask a question about language?

10466 Gheorghe: Yes.

10467 Henry: Obviously you've picked up a lot of your English (.) you say (.) when you moved  
10468 because of the accent differences. Do you find that you're still speaking a lot of  
10469 Romanian here?

10470 Gheorghe: Yes. I speak with ((name removed)) in Romanian. Mainly in the house. Usually  
10471 when we go out to friends and there is always a foreigner (.) I mean somebody  
10472 who doesn't speak Romanian (.) we immediately switch to English. So most of our  
10473 language is in the pub or when we're out (.) it's all English based (.) unless we are  
10474 all Romanians and it's only our group. But we don't want to feel anyone  
10475 embarrassed.

10476 Henry: It's just a thing I thought because I suppose the idea you can mix and match. You  
10477 must be=

10478 Gheorghe: =Yes (.) I have a tendency even at home to talk to ((name removed)) in English  
10479 sometimes. I know it's annoying for her. She hates it.

10480 Henry: Does she?

10481 Gheorghe: Yes (.) she hates it. I don't know why. Sometimes I find it easier to say nice things  
10482 to her in English. She's like (.) "Ah no (.) why don't you speak (.) why don't you?"  
10483 - "Well (.) it sounds better in English."

10484 Henry: Ah. That's interesting because it's something that- I mean (.) I'm not bilingual so  
10485 I'm purely speaking English and it's a shame for me to say that really in a way  
10486 because the idea of being able to speak and think in different languages (.) it's just  
10487 an interesting dynamic that you're describing there. Being able to say different  
10488 things in different languages. In some things it sounds better=

10489 Gheorghe: =I mean (.) me and ((name removed)) (.) maybe I shouldn't tell you about (.) we  
10490 are actually from Hungarian heritage. I speak perfect Hungarian. I was seven years  
10491 old when I learned Romanian.

10492 Henry: Right.

10493 Gheorghe: You see (.) my grandparents (.) they were Hungarians.

10494 Henry: I see.

10495 Gheorghe: ((name removed)) is Hungarian. Actually her name (.) ((name)) (.) that's her  
10496 maiden name (.) it's purely Hungarian name.

10497 Henry: Right. Okay then. Did she (.) I'm trying to=

10498 Gheorghe: I don't think she mentioned it because she hates when people tell her (.) "Oh no (.)  
10499 you're actually Hungarian."

10500 Henry: And she'll say (.) "No (.) I'm Romanian."

10501 Gheorghe: She'll say (.) "No (.) no (.) I'm Romanian."

10502 Henry: Yes.

10503 Gheorghe: She's very strong about it (.) she feels very Romanian.

10504 Henry: Are you both from a similar part of Romania?

10505 Gheorghe: Yes. From Moldavia (.) from Eastern Moldavia.

10506 Henry: Moldavia (.) yes. So there would have been some movement across. Transylvania's  
10507 the bit that borders with Hungary isn't it?

10508 Gheorghe: No (.) it doesn't border with Transylvania. That's something to do with the 18th  
10509 century actually. You know (.) when it was Austro-Hungarian Empire. Apparently  
10510 our ancestors (.) they supposed to do border guards and they refused so they had to  
10511 run away (.) because they refused. They had been punished by death so they  
10512 crossed the border into Romania. That time it was part of Ottoman Empire  
10513 probably. (.) they just settled there. If you look along the borders (.) you'll find  
10514 Hungarian communities like ours which we are Catholics and we speak a very old  
10515 form of Hungarian actually. It's not Hungarian what we speak (.) it's  
10516 called Csango. We are about 80 (.)000 left nowadays. We are dying out very  
10517 quickly. The language. It's not a written language.

10518 Henry: Oh (.) I see. An oral tradition.

10519 Gheorghe: If I go to Budapest and I speak as my grandmother used to speak (.) they wouldn't  
10520 understand what I'm saying (.) but it sounds Hungarian.

10521 Henry: Wow. Quite sad then really.

10522 Gheorghe: I speak with my mother-in-law and my father-in-law. We speak Csango. ((name  
10523 removed)) is very annoyed because she can't understand.

10524 Henry: ((laughter)) There's not enough commonality between Romanian and Csango to  
10525 sort of get-?

10526 Gheorghe: No (.) two different cultures.

10527 Henry: They are just different.

10528 Gheorghe: I mean (.) Romanians (.) they are mainly Orthodox. 99% of them. In Romania (.) if  
10529 you are Catholic (.) you're either from German descendant (.) Hungarian or  
10530 anything else (.) but definitely not Romanian.

10531 Henry: It's so interesting isn't it (.) because it sort of sometimes Romanian oversimplifies a  
10532 lot of more subtle things like what you were saying (.) having that link with  
10533 Hungary.

10534 Gheorghe: Think about British India (.) yes. Colonial times. They were altogether (.) isn't it?  
10535 Mostly Hindus and Christians and once you (.) it's just divided (.) okay? Let's get  
10536 them work hard because anyway they will kill each other.

10537 Henry: From what I've been told (.) it's sort of similarly in a sense (.) in Romania (.)  
10538 because you're the Moldavian region (.) the Transylvanian region (.) then you've  
10539 got sort of the in the south. Different sorts of regions with different accents and  
10540 different=

10541 Gheorghe: =Well it's like different accents but it's not like here. They will understand very  
10542 well. Transylvanians (.) they are a bit more different but this has to do with the  
10543 German heritage. Habsburg Empire and everything. Austrians. That's why they (.)  
10544 Maybe that's why they are more developed. They are really harder working people  
10545 than all the rest.

10546 Henry: It sounds like as well (.) even with the language (.) because Romanian's a romance  
10547 language (.) isn't it?

10548 Gheorghe: Latin language (.) yes.

10549 Henry: There's a lot of commonality with a lot of other European sort of-

10550 Gheorghe: Yes. French (.) Spanish (.) Italian. If somebody will talk in Italian (.) I will (.) at  
10551 least 60% (.) I will understand. It's no problem. It's very little. So many (.) I just (.)  
10552 I will say (.) "bună seara". That's Italian. Bună seara (.) that's Romanian. It's  
10553 absolutely no different=

10554 Henry: =try very hard.

10555 Gheorghe: It's the way how much you open your mouth probably.

10556 Henry: Do you think that's a lot to do with why a lot of people move there?

10557 Gheorghe: Yes. It's easy to pick up the language first of all. It's liking people (.) you know.  
10558 They are welcoming. Let's put it like that. They are more welcoming.

10559 Henry: Have you visited anywhere else in Europe or has it just been the UK?

10560 Gheorghe: Oh yes. I lived in Germany for one year. I was an au pair there when I was very  
10561 young.

10562 Henry: Oh (.) I see.

10563 Gheorghe: When I was 19 actually (.) or 20. I was 20 actually. That was my first au pair  
10564 experience. That's why actually I decided to be an au pair in England also because  
10565 I knew what is it. I learned German there. It was very good. It was a nice  
10566 experience.

10567 Henry: So very much (.) sort of (.) set you up for the sorts of things that you might want to  
10568 move to in the future then. That's why you chose the UK then.

10569 Gheorghe: I didn't like Germany. I wouldn't go back there.

10570 Henry: Why was that then?

10571 Gheorghe: I wouldn't go to live there. People were very cold. Very cold and very (.) "No (.)  
10572 you are from outside (.) you don't belong to us (.) that's it."

10573 Henry: Wow.

10574 Gheorghe: They will show you that (.) when I didn't have that feeling with English people. If I  
10575 went to a pub (.) they said (.) "Yes (.) mate (.) you want a pint? Where are you  
10576 from? Your accent is different." No (.) straight away (.) that wouldn't happen in a  
10577 pub in Germany.

10578 Henry: Wow. It's interesting because I mean (.) the impression you get is that Germany is  
10579 more welcoming.

10580 Gheorghe: No.

10581 Henry: It's in the way it's talked about here (.) that's the impression I get (.) Interesting=

10582 Gheorghe: I just remember one thing when (.) I mean (.) it might be that I was just running  
10583 out (.) because there it was again and I just talked to the family and I said (.) "Well  
10584 (.) what about staying another three months here if I go and ask for an extension of  
10585 my Visa?" They said (.) "Yes (.) just go to the immigration bureau and see what  
10586 they say." I went there and I asked the lady (.) "Sorry (.)" in perfect German (.)  
10587 because I learned German very well (.) and she looked at me and was like (.) you  
10588 know (.) I was hitting her with hammers. I said (.) "What?" "You ask for an  
10589 extension to stay more in Germany?" She couldn't understand (.) not the question  
10590 (.) how I dare to ask that (.) you know?

10591 Henry: That must've been really quite awkward for you.

10592 Gheorghe: That's why when I hear Germany now I say (.) "No (.) thank you." Not a very  
10593 welcoming place for me.

10594 Henry: I can't imagine how awkward that would feel with someone.

10595 Gheorghe: Awful. We have friends (.) German friends (.) here in Sheffield and they are  
10596 absolutely different people. It's the young generation maybe. I think it all has to do  
10597 with certain ages. You see (.) for example (.) my father (.) after the revolution [he  
10598 actually carried his job out at one point he was made redundant because his  
10599 company shut down. He couldn't understand that he needs to write a CV to go and  
10600 apply for a job. For 40 years (.) he has been in a secure (.) communist job. He can't  
10601 have this change. He's too old. He can't accept it. That's his group age (.) he will  
10602 die as it is. There's no chance to change him. Nothing in the world.

10603 Henry: What was your experience growing up? My maths isn't great.

10604 Gheorghe: Well I was 12 when the revolution happened (.) so I could understand some certain  
10605 things what happened there.

10606 Henry: Yes (.) so you would have been brought for a lot of your childhood then (.) in that  
10607 (.) sort of (.) regime then?

10608 Gheorghe: Oh yes. I was. I was in communist camps and everything (.) and I steer clear of  
10609 remembering them but for me (.) it was a very good experience. It was a sense of  
10610 organisation. People knew what they expected from them and we knew what's  
10611 happening. When after the revolution and all this Western culture and all these  
10612 Western habits just simply came on us and we're not used to them (.) it was a bit  
10613 strange. People started to pick up all the bad habits from Western (.) drugs (.)  
10614 prostitution and all these things rather than take the good things.

10615 Henry: It sounds like it had quite a profound effect on people then.

10616 Gheorghe: Oh yes.



10617 Henry: And not necessarily for the best (.) even though (.) you'd think of it as being a  
10618 good thing.

10619 Gheorghe: This is what (.) as I said before (.) European Union enlarged too quickly for some  
10620 people. It should have been done in stages. Let people accommodate the idea. You  
10621 can't just simply change it. The way I remember it (.) when I was maybe 10 years  
10622 old (.) my father (.) [if we're old army we have to go to find the Germans and the  
10623 British and all the French and everything. They are our enemies. That was in our  
10624 heads (.) because we are under the Soviet rule (.) let's say. I mean (.) you are the  
10625 enemies (.) we are the good guys. You knew probably different. You are the good  
10626 guys (.) we are the enemies. That was Cold War after all. Suddenly you wanted to  
10627 change (.) you know (.) it's a bit strange.

10628 Henry: It must have been quite (.) at 12 (.) what was it like then with all those things  
10629 changing? Did you find yourself changing the way you thought about it or did you  
10630 find it quite (.) just strange and new?

10631 Gheorghe: I was happy (.) I was a child. I was 12 years old anyway. I was happy because  
10632 people around me (.) they were happy. I remember my grandparents (.)  
10633 they couldn't believe it today (.) just say (.) "Oh no (.) what's going to happen?  
10634 What a revolution (.) Ceaușescu's dead?" They couldn't understand.

10635 Henry: It all happened so fast (.) didn't it?

10636 Gheorghe: Everything so fast.

10637 Henry: Within a few days. It was a kangaroo court (.) wasn't it (.) or something like that  
10638 and he was executed (.) wasn't he?

10639 Gheorghe: Yes. I know people were very cheerful for the first couple of years but after (.)  
10640 they started to realise that all this change is not really so easy to apply. The  
10641 mentality's at home in the 90s (.) they were used to the old system. You have a job  
10642 (.) it's secure. Nobody's going to make you redundant. For example (.) my father  
10643 (.) he never had to apply for a job or go and ask for a mortgage to buy a house. No  
10644 (.) it was everything given because that was the system (.) yes? So for him (.) it  
10645 was very hard. "I need to go to find a job (.) I need to go for an interview first of  
10646 all. Write a CV."

10647 Henry: Yes (.) so in many ways then (.) it sounds like (.) at least as far as your dad's  
10648 experience went (.) it was actually bad thing because it meant a lot more  
10649 uncertainty and a lot more unfamiliar things.

10650 Gheorghe: In communist era (.) you had a secure future. It didn't matter if the economy is  
10651 good or bad (.) you have a job. It didn't matter if you go to the factory that day and  
10652 there's nothing to do for you. You get your wages. It's not like production or  
10653 demand. It's not this Western type of economy which is fuelled by demand after  
10654 all.

10655 Henry: Definitely yes. That's something that obviously you've moved to. Obviously it had  
10656 changed when you were in Romania still but (.) I mean (.) it's the UK and hourly  
10657 based pay and agency work. What was your experience of doing all those things?  
10658 Did the old system come to mind then?

10659 Gheorghe: No (.) because even when I was- my grandfather's head of house on a very small  
10660 plot of land (.) so I was quite used to do work. I wasn't running away from hard  
10661 work. It was no issue for us.

10662 Henry: No (.) but I suppose from the point of view of with agency work (.) you don't  
10663 necessarily know what hours you're going to get-

10664 Gheorghe: You see (.) I never worked in the communist hours. I was a child. I never get  
10665 wages from there. I can't really compare it.

10666 Henry: No (.) that's fair enough.

10667 Gheorghe: When I was first in employment (.) that was here.

10668 Henry: Yes (.) I understand. I appreciate what you're saying. I suppose I meant in the  
10669 sense that (.) just ideas you might have experienced (.) you've seen parents  
10670 working.

10671 Gheorghe: No. Just what I can remember as a child. Sometimes I think (.) also (.) I try to  
10672 understand people. I don't judge them (.) because I know what they feel. I mean (.)  
10673 they have things which- I know (.) I have seen them with my eyes. I can't blame  
10674 the older guys' knowledge (.) they just simply can't understand this world.

10675 Henry: It's a hard thing to do (.) isn't it? For anyone.

10676 Gheorghe: It is. It's much like (.) maybe us going (.) I don't know (.) I don't want to give a bad  
10677 example (.) let's go (.) maybe move to Pakistan tomorrow. It's a totally different  
10678 society. It's going to be hard for us to accept that way of living maybe (.) which for  
10679 them (.) it's their lifestyle (.) it's something very normal.

10680 Henry: It sounds like you feel (.) like when you were saying at the start (.) you feel like  
10681 you've made the transition moving here to a different way of doing things really  
10682 well. You feel part of it.

10683 Gheorghe: I was lucky because I was very (.) very young when all this transition happened. I  
10684 simply caught up with it (.) slowly (.) slowly.

10685 Henry: How do you feel about the way that (.) at least in a broad sense (.) in the way the  
10686 newspapers or whatever talk about Romanian migration here then?

10687 Gheorghe: I am a bit disappointed. They all portray these gypsies and all these people maybe  
10688 coming here just to claim benefits maybe which I don't think it's so real. I never  
10689 claimed benefits in this country (.) never ever. Even if I was entitled to them. I  
10690 didn't bother. I prefer to go for interview and wait until the phone is ringing. At  
10691 first I don't understand the young English boys (.) "Well (.) there are no jobs."  
10692 When I came here (.) I had no work permit (.) no nothing. I found a job straight  
10693 away. How is that possible (.) you know? I don't understand this. Most of people  
10694 (.) I look at them (.) I can sense that thing (.) you know (.) looking to me and say  
10695 (.) "You're here to steal my jobs (.)" and everything. Well (.) you know (.) what I  
10696 tell them (.) I'm here to be part of this society. I didn't come here to change you  
10697 guys (.) the way you live or change who you are. I came here to be part of what  
10698 you are (.) first of all. This is what I'm trying to do. I don't think they get it (.) to be  
10699 honest. I try to respond (.) "Look (.) I'm British like you guys (.) my accent will be  
10700 different (.) I cannot change that." Even if- I need to be reborn probably (.) you  
10701 know. That's going to stay with me for the rest of my life. Trust me (.) I'm part of  
10702 what you are now. I'm not trying to change you from inside or anything like that.

10703 Henry: It sounds like you've had a few instances where despite having British nationality  
10704 (.) you've had this (.) sort of-

10705 Gheorghe: Oh (.) the best thing at work (.) I'm with this company for five years. I still go to  
10706 colleagues from the first day they know me (.) they go (.) "Oh ((Gheorghe)) the  
10707 Polish guy from Romania." That says everything (.) isn't it?

10708 Henry: Polish guy?

10709 Gheorghe: From Romania (.) yes. Well (.) that's a lot to do with geography. This is how they  
10710 picture me. I was the only foreigner in this company for nearly three years. Now  
10711 my brother-in-law is also working for the same company (.) so we're two.

10712 Henry: What's your response to that (.) when they say things like that?=  
10713 Gheorghe: =I take it as a joke (.) nothing else. I'm really not offended about it.

10714 Henry: You do come across in that way (.) that you're quite easy-going.

10715 Gheorghe: I've got where people ask (.) "When are you going back?" "Oh (.) where was I?  
10716 Back where (.) to Barnsley (.) Sheffield (.) where?" Where do they want me to  
10717 go? Usually I answer (.) "Where are you from?" I say (.) "I'm from Japan (.) I'm  
10718 Japanese."

10719 Henry: What do they say to that?

10720 Gheorghe: They understood that I'm taking the mickey with them and they stop.

10721 Henry: I suppose that's the sort of thing that is quite a good way to challenge it (.) isn't it?  
10722 Make them think about why they've asked it in the first place.

10723 Gheorghe: I told everybody (.) if you think that you're better than me (.) why don't you take  
10724 my job then (.) you know? Why I was there in front of that guy who interviewed  
10725 me and gave me the job (.) to me and not to you. That says something.

10726 Henry: You said about (.) they described you as the Polish guy from Romania (.) how do  
10727 you feel like in relation to that (.) how Bulgaria's sort of been=

10728 Gheorghe: I think we are in the same (.) I mean even the Polish guys or the Lithuanians or  
10729 Slavics. They've been here before us (.) that's the thing (.) because obviously from  
10730 2004 when they joined (.) straight away they could come and take jobs. A lot of  
10731 them came. That's why there's all this stigma for Eastern European. Now it doesn't  
10732 matter if you are only Romanian and Bulgarian (.) you are actually the latest  
10733 country to join and we are not so many in numbers like the Polish guys with  
10734 everybody. That's the stigma. It was far too much. I understand something like a  
10735 million Eastern European or at least a million Polish workers in the first years (.)  
10736 well that's a lot isn't it?

10737 Henry: Yes (.) I mean it is quite complicated. I think it might even be two million (.) but  
10738 then some have since moved back (.) so I think it is more like a million that have  
10739 actually stayed. The counting's not very good from what I can gather. They don't  
10740 really-

10741 Gheorghe: You have too many opinions.

10742 Henry: Yes (.) definitely. It sort of stands out as a stigma (.) as you say (.) that it's just an  
10743 idea that's stuck over time and it's still=

10744 Gheorghe: =What I remember (.) when I first came in 2003 (.) the people were not so worried  
10745 and it's been nearly 12 years now. I mean (.) the way I have the picture of the  
10746 English guys when I first came (.) no worries (.) every Friday (.) Saturday (.) pubs  
10747 were absolutely full. I was a barman also in my first year (.) you see (.) so I

10748 remember them coming and spending like (.) £50 (.) £100 even (.) and if I  
10749 remember £50 in 2003 (.) that was a bit of money (.) not like nowadays now. They  
10750 were not worried (.) because it was enough money. Suddenly (.) economy started  
10751 to crash. Started losing jobs and people started to be worried. I think this is a  
10752 dynamic again of the economy. When the economy is doing bad (.) you are  
10753 worried about everything (.) about immigrants (.) about what's happening (.) but  
10754 when you've got the money to pay (.) you don't care. This is exactly what's  
10755 happened in my view. People realise they've been made redundant (.) no more  
10756 money (.) no more things. Oh (.) let's blame it on immigrants. You always have to  
10757 find somebody. It's not your fault (.) it's never your fault. It's already somebody  
10758 else's fault. This is human nature after all. We're always told to blame somebody  
10759 else for our mistakes.

10760 Henry: Is it something in your view that you think we could ever stop from happening  
10761 then (.) if it's our human nature?

10762 Gheorghe: I don't know. I'm not a psychologist (.) but you know (.) it's really hard work for  
10763 the whole society.

10764 Henry: If it's part of human nature (.) it's (.) sort of (.) that's just part of us (.) isn't it?

10765 Gheorghe: I was amazed when I came in 2003. It was no recycling at all in this country.  
10766 Absolutely everybody was chucking things (.) altogether. We started doing it now  
10767 because we realise it's a lot of money we are wasting. It was like as a society (.)  
10768 let's waste it (.) it doesn't matter (.) we have money to pay. That was the picture  
10769 initially (.) because I was amazed. I asked the grandmother of the children (.) I said  
10770 (.) "You don't recycle the bottles (.) the paper and everything." I was just like in  
10771 Germany (.) you know (.) to do it separately (.) everything was. She told me (.) I  
10772 still remember Granny saying (.) "No (.) no (.) we have money to pay." I think this  
10773 country's rich enough to afford to throw the bottles away. Something like that.

10774 Henry: So it's just a matter of (.) like you say (.) time and trying to get everyone to-?

10775 Gheorghe: It's not about the money. It's about the thing. It's about resources first of all. It's the  
10776 pollution and everything. We can help all this. But this takes time. This takes  
10777 generation to change all these mentalities. It took us like (.) nearly 10 years (.) to  
10778 start recycling in Sheffield. I don't know when the scheme started but not very  
10779 long ago.

10780 Henry: To be fair (.) we all think now we've got several bins for our recycling and some  
10781 people who have even got several for different materials.

10782 Gheorghe: Yes. When I was an au pair in Germany in 1999 (.) we had seven different bins.

10783 Henry: Seven. ((laughter))

10784 Gheorghe: Yes. Green bottles (.) white bottles (.) brown bottles (.) metals only (.) paper (.)  
10785 three types of paper (.) and everybody was doing it (.) even the little boys knew  
10786 better than me how to do it.

10787 Henry: Wow. I suppose part of that as well-

10788 Gheorghe: I think everything it's in education (.) you know (.) in schools first of all. Think  
10789 maybe teachers in this country are so afraid. You know (.) let's not smack kids or  
10790 let's not do something because big things will happen. They don't enforce  
10791 education (.) tougher education any more.

10792 Henry: Is that something that you think is perhaps something that needs to change then (.)  
10793 to try and get people to-

10794 Gheorghe: We need to get a bit tougher with ourselves first of all (.) to have a better work  
10795 ethic. If you start your shift five in the morning (.) be at work five in the morning.  
10796 Don't get there like ten past five or anything you know. Let's try to be punctual at  
10797 least. Do our jobs properly. If I know have to fill in this properly (.) do it okay.  
10798 "No (.) that's alright (.) next guy's going to do it." All these things (.) you know. I  
10799 mean (.) I look at my job. If I make mistakes (.) people will suffer. I know I cannot  
10800 afford it.

10801 Henry: It's an interesting thing because it sounds like-

10802 Gheorghe: It's also in school (.) you know. Everything starts there (.) because I have seen  
10803 those things. You know (.) when I was at school (.) I was in the fifth grade. We  
10804 had a uniform and everybody to standard. Well after the revolution (.) you say (.)  
10805 "Well (.) come as you like (.)" and it was a (.) started to build up. I came in a T-  
10806 shirt (.) my colleagues in a sweater (.) we're starting (.) "Oh (.) mine is better (.)"  
10807 or it's Nike or whatever.

10808 Henry: I suppose it opened a can of worms (.) really.

10809 Gheorghe: Yes (.) Pandora box. This is how I call it.

10810 Henry: Yes (.) it's an interesting thing when you're talking about discipline.

10811 Gheorghe: I'm a big addict of order.

10812 Henry: It sounds like it's similar to when you first arrived and you had this image of what  
10813 English people were like.

10814 Gheorghe: They were so relaxed. I was looking and said (.) "How can they be so relaxed?  
10815 They're not bothered about anything." I said (.) "Well (.) this country must be so  
10816 rich (.) there's so much money (.) it doesn't matter whatever you do."

10817 Henry: Yes. Strange really (.) isn't it (.) how there can be such a mismatch between how  
10818 it's portrayed to be abroad and how people are like here? Strange. Let me think.  
10819 You've answered quite a lot of these. Let me just (.) I'm guessing then what you  
10820 were saying about Sheffield it being your home (.) this is (.) sort of (.) where  
10821 you're planning a lot of your future life then?

10822 Gheorghe: Yes. Well (.) I don't think we are going to move from Sheffield from now. I think  
10823 we're going to live here (.) but you never know what's happening in life after all.  
10824 Maybe in the next ten years (.) I might be in Canada or maybe even living in  
10825 another part of UK (.) you never know.

10826 Henry: Can you see yourself doing the same job or do you think you might do something  
10827 else?

10828 Gheorghe: I don't know. I don't really see myself driving for the next 31 years which I have  
10829 left until my pension age. In a way (.) I like my job (.) you know (.) it's alright (.)  
10830 it's well-paid. I enjoy what I'm doing some days. I would like to move up the  
10831 ladder. I just can't stop here. I have to move up the ladder. Even if it's in the  
10832 industry itself (.) but I would like maybe to do something like that. Maybe  
10833 transport planner or moving up the managerial ladder. They have lots of  
10834 opportunities (.) you just have to get them.

10835 Henry: Will you have to go back to night college or something to get some necessary  
10836 degrees?

10837 Gheorghe: Not necessarily for all these things. I mean (.) for example (.) when I was at  
10838 Morrisons ((place removed)) (.) the depot manager himself (.) he was an ex-driver  
10839 and simply (.) he just (.) up the ladder (.) step by step. He was coming from the  
10840 industry itself (.) he knew all the things. Yes (.) they have lots of regulation. It  
10841 doesn't mean you need a degree to be a manager if you want to be.

10842 Henry: So it's just a matter of sticking at it?

10843 Gheorghe: This is a thing I admire about Great Britain you see. In any other country (.) if you  
10844 don't have that degree for that thing (.) it doesn't matter how good you are. You  
10845 cannot touch it. While here (.) yes (.) if you want to be that person and you've got  
10846 the drive and the ambition (.) you can get there. Compare it to Romania (.) if you  
10847 don't have a university degree (.) you are absolutely nobody.

10848 Henry: That's something definite that is coming across. A lot of people do seem to go to  
10849 uni as a path there.

10850 Gheorghe: Absolutely annoyed there. Everybody has a university degree (.) even the cleaner  
10851 has a university degree and I don't understand why. I don't understand. I mean (.)  
10852 the way I see it (.) the quality of the school or the school system must be very low  
10853 nowadays (.) because in my time (.) my sister for example (.) she's a teacher (.) she  
10854 doesn't have a university degree. She's got the old stages where she managed to be  
10855 a teacher. You cannot compare it.

10856 Henry: I'm wondering now if she was to leave it and then reapply again (.) whether she'd  
10857 be able to do it.

10858 Gheorghe: ((name removed)) is actually studying here at open university. This is what she (.)  
10859 She studied in Romania but the time when she learnt her studies in Romania (.)  
10860 they were really very tough (.) the old communist system of school. The people  
10861 who managed in this time to access university (.) they were very good. They were  
10862 the very best. It's not any more in Romania. Everybody can access university (.) it  
10863 doesn't matter if you're really intelligent or you're stupid. I have people which they  
10864 just seemed to fail years and years and nowadays they show me (.) "I have a  
10865 university degree (.)" and you don't have one. How does it make me feel when I  
10866 know (.) "Oh God (.) he can't even spell his name properly." The society itself has  
10867 been so damaged (.) so damaged. There's no more values maybe or it's a ladder  
10868 with values (.) it's just upside down now. You just have to have money and you  
10869 can have everything=

10870 Henry: =Yes. It does sound like you feel like it's changed for the worst then since things  
10871 changed. Since the revolution because it's become focused on things that don't  
10872 matter in the grand scheme of things and then forgot the things that are.

10873 Gheorghe: My sister (.) for being a teacher (.) she was respected. Nobody questioned that she  
10874 has a BMW or any other car. Nobody. She had her status you know (.) she's a  
10875 teacher. She was somebody people were greeting on the street. Nowadays (.)  
10876 doesn't matter. Nowadays (.) that gypsy guy with the BMW who's maybe stealing  
10877 from cash machines in UK (.) he's going to get greeted because he's got a BMW  
10878 and he's got the money. The poor teacher is being spit on maybe.

10879 Henry: I suppose in that sense (.) at least then (.) you identify more with being here. You  
10880 feel like you can work and feel acknowledged for the work you do.

10881 Gheorghe: Yes. I mean here I am respected for what I do (.) you see (.) so I don't think I will  
10882 get this treatment back like that.

10883 Henry: I suppose then (.) the questions I was asking you earlier (.) it's quite clear then why  
10884 you feel nobody's here [for you]

10885 Gheorghe: [Before] to come to England (.) I was an insurance  
10886 broker in Romania. I was in insurance for about 1½ years. I tried to make a career  
10887 there but they were simply so many sharks around me. Everybody just biting from  
10888 left and right. I said (.) "You know what (.) I give up on everything (.)" and I just  
10889 go. I just simply can't stand it anymore.

10890 Henry: Like what you were saying (.) you're too honest.

10891 Gheorghe: Yes (.) well. No I wasn't too honest. I was trying to live with times (.) because I  
10892 was commission-based first of all. I didn't have a salary. As much as I could sell (.)  
10893 as much money I was making. From a small guy in insurance (.) at one point (.) I  
10894 had my own team of people and then I was just managing them. I just gave up and  
10895 said (.) "No (.) no more. I can't take it anymore."

10896 Henry: So that was very much around the time when you decided to start doing au pair  
10897 stuff then?

10898 Gheorghe: Yes. That's why I said (.) I even remember the manager told me (.) "Are you  
10899 crazy? You are leaving this job here which has a future (.)" because the insurance  
10900 industry just keep telling Romania really (.) the first guys and maybe I will be  
10901 somewhere around. "Are you really crazy? You're going for £50 a week there and  
10902 you can have so much here." And I said (.) "Yes (.) I'm doing it (.) because I can't  
10903 live in this anymore."

10904 Henry: Wow. It sounds like then (.) it was quite a formative time then (.) to sort of make  
10905 that decision and really go with the uncertainty.

10906 Gheorghe: Oh (.) well it was a sacrifice. Maybe I could have had a good life back home. I  
10907 could have inherited flat from my parents. Have the job.

10908 Henry: You wouldn't have had ((name removed)) (.) would you?

10909 Gheorghe: Oh yes. That's it. Definitely.

10910 Henry: It sounds like (.) the way things have happened for you (.) they've happened at  
10911 particular times and it's sort of fell into place (.) hasn't it?

10912 Gheorghe: Yes (.) she couldn't believe it (.) poor girl. I was supposed to phone her the next  
10913 day (.) you know (.) and obviously I couldn't. I phoned her after three or four days  
10914 and I said (.) "Look (.) I'm in prison (.)" and she thought I'm joking because I want  
10915 to get rid of her. She couldn't believe it.

10916 Henry: Oh no.

10917 Gheorghe: Yes. I said (.) "No (.) I'm not joking. I will be deported in two weeks actually.  
10918 That's it (.) so you have to carry on on your own now."

10919 Henry: Oh (.) bless her. What was her answer to that then?

10920 Gheorghe: Well (.) obviously (.) being 18 and a girl (.) she started crying everything. She was  
10921 alright. She came for Christmas that year and we spent the week together. She  
10922 came back to England and her Visa was just about to expire in August 2006 and in  
10923 August 2007 (.) Romania was joining European. She said (.) "You know what (.) I  
10924 give up (.) I go back for Gheorghe (.)" and she came back for me. After (.) I said  
10925 (.) "Let's go. Both of us."

10926 Henry: I can't imagine what it must have sounded like when someone said (.) "Oh (.) sorry  
10927 I didn't call (.) I've been in prison (.)" or at least sort of-

10928 Gheorghe: I don't know. ((laughter))

10929 Henry: It probably sounds worse than what it was. It was quite an innocent mistake really  
10930 (.) as far as things go (.) but it must've sounded quite=

10931 Gheorghe: =Yes (.) it sounds (.) but I tell you (.) I didn't have really such a bad experience. I  
10932 mean (.) do not imagine me in a jumpsuit or things like this. No (.) it was alright (.)  
10933 it was relaxing.

10934 Henry: She was obviously very keen though (.) to have come back to Romania with you  
10935 and wait for things to happen.

10936 Gheorghe: Well (.) she fell in love straight away. I think that was the thing. Me too. I don't  
10937 admit it.

10938 Henry: It's great really (.) because I suppose (.) as I say (.) it's all falling into place for you  
10939 now.

10940 Gheorghe: Yes (.) more or less (.) because in the first years (.) so basically we started a new  
10941 life together here in 2007 (.) me and ((name removed)) (.) in the first couple of-  
10942 three years (.) she was quite unhappy. She wanted to go back and she was crying  
10943 all the time. She said (.) "No (.) we have to give up. We don't have the life we want  
10944 (.)" and she tried to be an accountant because I found a job initially with  
10945 Sainsbury's driving lorries. When I decided to go drive lorries straight away (.) I  
10946 was hired by Sainsbury's. I was working in Kent. I was travelling from London to  
10947 Maidstone in Kent (.) every day. I said (.) "You know (.) ((name removed)) (.) it's  
10948 too much for me (.)" because I was doing long hours. "Let's move to Maidstone  
10949 (.)" and she found a job as an accountant and she absolutely hated it. She just told  
10950 me the other day (.) "I was hoping I'm going to get pregnant so I can get rid of the  
10951 job." She was desperate. I said (.) "Well (.) let's try something." At one point (.)  
10952 she was honest about it then. We could do this thing. I said (.) "What do you want  
10953 to do? Do you want to study? I'm open to leave everything and start again if you  
10954 want for you." This is how we decided to move up to Sheffield.

10955 Henry: What she decided to do (.) yes. She studied sociology (.) didn't she?

10956 Gheorghe: Yes. I can see they're happy now. She's really happy now with what she's doing.

10957 Henry: She seemed very happy (.) sort of (.) in a place when we met.

10958 Gheorghe: I think she found the job she always wanted.

10959 Henry: It's amazing (.) isn't it? What she was saying to you about being unhappy. A lot of  
10960 it was really boiling down to the job then (.) it sounds like. Now that she's in a  
10961 better job (.) a better place (.) things seem to fit more into place now.

10962 Gheorghe: I think to a certain degree we're lucky (.) but I don't really believe in luck. I think  
10963 you make the luck in your life yourself (.) for the decisions you do.

10964 Henry: It doesn't sound like things that have happened to you are just luck. You've moved  
10965 (.) you've done it yourself (.) haven't you?

10966 Gheorghe: Yes. It's hard work (.) after all.

10967 Henry: Yes (.) it doesn't sound like it's just happened to you because you've moved several  
10968 places and had a go at different things.



10969 Gheorghe: It was really hard in the beginning when we came (.) because once I started  
10970 working being a lorry driver (.) for the first three years I was working only nights.  
10971 ((name removed)) had the accounting job (.) Monday to Friday nine to five (.) and  
10972 I was starting my shifts back then in the evenings. We couldn't really see each  
10973 other too much. I was working all the weekends and we were just avoiding each  
10974 other.

10975 Henry: What's the saying? Passing ships in the night or whatever.

10976 Gheorghe: Yes (.) exactly.

10977 Henry: Gosh. That must have been really hard then.

10978 Gheorghe: It took a bit of strain on relation (.) but we managed. We pulled it through so=

10979 Henry: =In the evening (.) you were starting at 10 o'clock and what time would you  
10980 finish? Like six o'clock or something?

10981 Gheorghe: No (.) like ten (.) eleven (.) one o'clock (.) two o'clock in afternoon. Usually I used  
10982 to go home (.) sleep (.) (for) 5 (.) 5:30 (.) and she was coming home (.) cooking  
10983 something. I was going back to sleep for another two or three hours.

10984 Henry: Yes (.) so you'd wake up to see her and have a bit of a shower.

10985 Gheorghe: Yes. On weekends she was all the time alone while I was at work.

10986 Henry: Is that why you moved then from Sainsbury's to Morrison's?

10987 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I moved to Morrison's. At Sainsbury's (.) I was self-employed you see.  
10988 When we first came in 2007 (.) the Romanians didn't have a road permit (.) so you  
10989 had to be either self-employed (.) have your own business or find a company  
10990 which will hire you. That's supposed to be on a (.) how is it called? I can't find the  
10991 proper word. You know like be a doctor or a teacher or anything. Hire scheme or  
10992 something like that.

10993 Henry: As in like a (.) I think I know what you mean. Professional sort of job.

10994 Gheorghe: Professional sort of job. I had to be self-employed and obviously the company's  
10995 couldn't hire me directly so that's why I had to work for agencies (.) on my limited  
10996 company. This is how I managed.

10997 Henry: To get round it.

10998 Gheorghe: Yes and at Morrison's I could be employed by the company because ((name  
10999 removed)) (.) you know (.) applied for a certain type of Visa. She was my  
11000 dependent and after I became her dependent (.) it was- we just simply took  
11001 advantage of the immigration rules.

11002 Henry: It does sound like you=

11003 Gheorghe: =To be honest. I tell them this has to be changed because there is the gap. This is  
11004 how people are using it. We didn't abuse it. We done the right thing because after  
11005 all (.) we paid all the taxes and everything. It was our way.

11006 Henry: If that's what you can do (.) that's what you can do. I mean (.) it's no different to  
11007 what politicians do or what anyone does. People try and use the system the best  
11008 way they can (.) don't they? When we were talking earlier (.) I didn't quite realise  
11009 how much thinking was really involved with getting everything=

11010 Gheorghe: =So from 2007 (.) as a European Union new member Romania (.) you had three  
11011 rights. Either study (.) be self-sufficient or self-employed. I chose to be self-  
11012 employed. ((name removed)) was my dependent. The rule is very simple. My  
11013 dependent had a right to work on her own permit. She had the right to apply for a  
11014 work permit. We done that because I had a limited company. I was self-employed.  
11015 After one year (.) I became her dependent because she had already a job and a  
11016 work permit. I could be her dependent and this is how I get my work permit. This  
11017 is how we played the system. I say (.) "We play the system (.)" we took advantage  
11018 of the laws. It was reading (.) nights and nights studying every articles in the law  
11019 in immigration. See what we can do to have a better life. Simply from that point (.)  
11020 everything opened up because I could go just to any company and say (.) "Yes (.)  
11021 that's me (.) I'm Romanian. I have a work permit. I can work for you if you want  
11022 to."  
11023 Henry: That's what they want to see (.) isn't it?  
11024 Gheorghe: Yes (.) because when I went this company to work with where I am now (.) this is  
11025 what- "Do you have a work permit?" I said (.) "Yes (.) I have it (.) it's here." They  
11026 were just relieved in that moment.  
11027 Henry: Because they don't have to worry about any of the legal stuff.  
11028 Gheorghe: Yes (.) I found this very strange. Many times (.) I went to interviews and people  
11029 were scared or the Henry was scared to ask if I have a work permit (.) and I  
11030 couldn't understand why. "Let's not ask if he has (.) we don't want to offend him." I  
11031 have noticed this culture in England already. "Oh (.) let's not offend (.) let's not  
11032 offend." Why are you afraid to ask? If you don't ask (.) you never the right answer.  
11033 You'll always have the wrong image in your head. This is where you make  
11034 mistakes. Ask. Be more German. This is what I told them. "Be more German (.) be  
11035 more pragmatic." Ask him "Do you have a work permit (.) do you have a Visa (.)  
11036 my friend?" No (.) well (.) you can't be here then (.) isn't it? It's simple. It's now (.)  
11037 "Oh let's see if" No (.) no.  
11038 Henry: That's very interesting.  
11039 Gheorghe: This is what I don't like about British people. I try not to be like (.) "Oh (.) let's  
11040 pretend it's not happened." No (.) let's not pretend. Let's say it. Let's face it.  
11041 Henry: It's very interesting.  
11042 Gheorghe: I know it's drastic. This is the way your guys work (.) the way I work. Probably my  
11043 kids will be (.) definitely.  
11044 Henry: I think we have moved into that (.) sort of like (.) really sensitive- everyone's really  
11045 sensitive nowadays (.) aren't they? Don't want to [offend each other]  
11046 Gheorghe: [We're not offending]  
11047 each other (.) as long as we talk about it.  
11048 Henry: It's right not to be offended (.) that's what you often see in the newspapers. "I'm  
11049 offended to this (.) you can't say that." That's what you always read about.  
11050 Gheorghe: If you feel offended (.) say it. Absolutely. Talk about it. Sometimes if I do  
11051 something and you feel offended (.) maybe I didn't realise I offended you. I will  
11052 never know that and I will do it again and again and again if you don't tell me.  
11053 Henry: That's a really interesting point though (.) because I think it does quite nicely  
11054 depict the challenges.

11055 Gheorghe: The job I'm doing now (.) I have chosen my own area and I go only in Bradford.  
11056 Bradford has a large Muslim community. Half of my clients there are from the  
11057 Muslim community. Initially (.) I was going there (.) I used to make silly jokes  
11058 about them and they told me (.) "Gheorghe (.) you can't say these things. We  
11059 understand you make a joke (.) but you don't know us." Now I started to know that  
11060 (.) absolutely (.) I apologised. We shook hands (.) we are best friends. We see  
11061 them every day. Absolutely.

11062 Henry: Yes (.) so I suppose it's a matter of just getting that balance right and knowing  
11063 what-

11064 Gheorghe: Yes (.) exactly.

11065 Henry: Can you think of any other customs that you've noticed being in the UK?  
11066 Becoming British yourself and becoming part of the country. Funny sorts of  
11067 customs or things- I know you were saying earlier with tea (.) that was quite a  
11068 good one (.) wasn't it?

11069 Gheorghe: Oh yes. I know for sure (.) you never mean what you say. That's a very British  
11070 thing. If you say (.) "Yes (.) no it's absolutely fine (.)" it means (.) no it's not right  
11071 (.) it's not going in the right direction. That's a British thing.

11072 Henry: It's the other way around.

11073 Gheorghe: Yes (.) it's always the other way round. You're never open about your feelings (.)  
11074 about how you feel exactly at that point. Even if you're upset (.) you're not going  
11075 to admit it. This goes back to that thing (.) "Oh (.) because I don't want to offend  
11076 you (.)" obviously.

11077 Henry: That's very interesting.

11078 Gheorghe: Because I am Romanian (.) I have this Latin blood in me. We are very direct. We  
11079 tell you (.) "I'm upset on you now" that's it (.) we settled it (.) we shook hands. Off  
11080 to the pub (.) let's drink. That's it. We put it behind us. I'm not going to wait for the  
11081 next chance to stab you from the back. No (.) it's not going to happen. I'm going to  
11082 pay it back later on (.) don't worry. We don't do that.

11083 Henry: It sounds like a healthier way to be really (.) doesn't it? Just to have it out in the  
11084 open.

11085 Gheorghe: Be happy about it. You keep anger in you and it's no good.

11086 Henry: I'm trying to think now. I don't think there's anything- there's nothing else on here  
11087 that you've not really talked about. to keep going over (.) because you've been=

11088 Gheorghe: I didn't (.) to be honest.

11089 Henry: I don't know if there's anything else that you might have thought of that you want  
11090 to talk about at this point? We've been chatting for just over an hour now.

11091 Gheorghe: Oh yes (.) that's good. I thought it's been only ten minutes to be honest.

11092 Henry: No (.) it's been just over an hour so I don't know if there's anything else that you  
11093 want to talk about.

11094 Gheorghe: I don't know. If you have any more questions (.) I'm happy to answer.

11095 Henry: I don't think so. A lot of these things we've covered (.) I'm quite conscious of  
11096 making you repeat yourself really. I suppose (.) one I've got (.) we have talked  
11097 about it a little bit about Europe (.) how you feel about what it means to European

11098 (.) rather than just British? Or even having (.) you know (.) sort of (.) Romanian  
11099 history?

11100 Gheorghe: I think this is the larger family of us (.) after all. We share a lot of common values  
11101 (.) you know. Let's take religion. We are mostly all Christians. We are Caucasians.  
11102 We share a common history (.) after all. Yes (.) we've been fighting each other in  
11103 centuries and all this.

11104 Henry: Yes (.) that's history stuff (.) isn't it?

11105 Gheorghe: Apart from this (.) if we met somewhere in South America (.) yes well (.) where  
11106 you are from? From Poland and you're from Germany and England (.) yes  
11107 definitely going to stick together because we got something in common. I can't  
11108 really find what is it but yes. We have a sense of belonging. We are Europeans  
11109 after all. We are part of this bigger family. I think culturally we are connected (.)  
11110 more or less. Literature first of all (.) music and everything. It's all in Europe  
11111 mostly.

11112 Henry: It's quite nicely depicted (.) from what I've seen myself in Romanian culture (.) has  
11113 so many European sorts of- you know in the way the food is and the language. It  
11114 has so many different influences (.) doesn't it?

11115 Gheorghe: Yes (.) it's got characteristics in particular things. Yes (.) obviously. Like every  
11116 minority or every country's got some.

11117 Henry: It's just so interesting when you think about how these different things come  
11118 together. They create something new with something like-

11119 Gheorghe: It's our common heritage I think as Europeans. If we go to Moscow and we ask (.)  
11120 "Do you know who Shakespeare is?" They will know but if you go in London and  
11121 ask (.) "Do you know who is?" We all know who he is (.) isn't it? Even if we have  
11122 all the parts (.) not really all the parts (.) but we are still Europe.

11123 Henry: It's a nice sort of image (.) to think about it as a family. It's often not really in that  
11124 way. Normally it's depicted as arguing (.) isn't it? You know (.) countries sort of  
11125 disagreeing and bickering. That side of family (.) rather than the commonality  
11126 family.

11127 Gheorghe: I think this is what they're trying to do now with this European Union but it's been  
11128 just a bit rushed. We're living in this world of money which is simply dictating too  
11129 many things around. It's not always what the people want maybe.

11130 Henry: There's definitely a lot in that.

11131 Gheorghe: Yes. I've got my own theory that actually banks are running the world and not us.

11132 Henry: I'd totally go along with that. From a political point of view (.) it's really worrying  
11133 how it seems like it's the wealthier rather than nationality (.) it's how wealthy you  
11134 are really. That's sort of what gives you the opportunities to do what you want to  
11135 do.

11136 Gheorghe: It must be 1% of this population of the entire world which has all the strings (.)  
11137 unfortunately. There's the difference (.) for example in Romania (.) go back 30  
11138 years (.) everybody was identical. Nobody had a better car or fancier dress or a  
11139 bigger house. Nobody. Everybody was equal. This is what the Western society  
11140 destroyed. We are all equal. I'm not going to make more than you (.) but in a way  
11141 (.) that system killed the competitiveness (.) isn't it? Because as a human (.) me (.) I  
11142 want to be better than you (.) isn't it? I want to have a beautiful wife (.) maybe

11143 beautiful than yours (.) I want a bigger house. This is why they killed it. My father  
 11144 didn't know how to fight for this. Why shall I have a better car than my neighbour?  
 11145 We all have the same. In his mind (.) he was okay with that. Well (.) I cannot be  
 11146 that. I'm in a competition with my brother-in-law. I want a faster car than him (.)  
 11147 simple. It's a very simple example. This is human nature after all.

11148 Henry: It's very interesting (.) sort of (.) characterisation. Often when people talk about  
 11149 communism (.) there was a report in Romania (.) what was it? About seven years  
 11150 ago now? Trying to think about what communism did.

11151 Gheorghe: It was not a bad thing. It was organised. It was okay. They knew what they doing  
 11152 (.) but it just simply burst.

11153 Henry: But that sense of people feeling equal (.) even if there were points that needed to  
 11154 be improved on (.) people felt equal.

11155 Gheorghe: I mean (.) in a way (.) communism was bad because it was a dictatorship (.) you  
 11156 see (.) with Ceaușescu (.) I'm thinking about Hungary (.) because I have cousins  
 11157 and uncles living in Hungary and we met them after the revolution. We finally got  
 11158 together and we met because we couldn't cross the borders before. We had no right  
 11159 for a passport or free movement. They said (.) "Well (.) it was great in communist  
 11160 times." They had oranges and bananas and everything we didn't have in the shops.  
 11161 They were actually the happy country. Hungary in the Soviet Bloc. They didn't  
 11162 have shortages or anything like we experienced in Romania. That country proved  
 11163 that actually communism can work. Look at China after all. It's modern  
 11164 communism. They have latest iPhones and everything they can want.

11165 Henry: It's a weird version of communism (.) isn't it? It's incredibly happy to have some  
 11166 bits of capitalism.

11167 Gheorghe: It's working. It's not communism actually. Socialism. It's look after each other.  
 11168 That's the sort of thing.

11169 Henry: Someone was telling me about there's a particular place (.) I can't remember what  
 11170 it's called now. A small district in one of the cities and it runs its own affairs. It's  
 11171 sort of quite a weird exception to the rule (.) but they have all the housing (.)  
 11172 everything is provided for by the state. All of the education places (.) there's no  
 11173 money in this place. No money at all.

11174 Gheorghe: Okay.

11175 Henry: Everything's given (.) which was a really strange idea. No money. It's hard to  
 11176 imagine (.) isn't it? A place with no money. They don't need it. Everything's paid  
 11177 for. All the electricity (.) it's all sorted. That's one particular example (.) even in  
 11178 socialist China (.) they've managed to do it. They've managed to get rid of it.

11179 Gheorghe: That's not far from what we had in Romania actually. We had the house provided  
 11180 from the government (.) yes. It was never paid by my father or anything. It was (.)  
 11181 "Yes (.) you've got two kids (.) that's your flat (.) three bedrooms (.) enjoy it.  
 11182 That's your car." He had a job (.) he knew the wages were coming. We had food  
 11183 tickets for everything because everything was rationalised. You could buy two  
 11184 breads (.) one loaf of bread or two. You had access only to one. That's all. There  
 11185 were money. I remember had lots of money (.) just nothing to buy because there  
 11186 were no products available in shops to buy. So it's nearly there.

11187 Henry: Yes (.) not far off really (.) is it?

11188 Gheorghe: Everything (.) it was programmed.

11189 Henry: Can you envisage a time where those sorts of ideas will ever become more popular  
11190 again or more (.) I don't know=

11191 Gheorghe: =Maybe in 20 years (.) here in Britain.

11192 Henry: Do you think?

11193 Gheorghe: I think they tried it with NHS and all these things. Labour government with all  
11194 these benefit systems and everything. Well (.) let's try to look after people (.) yes.  
11195 They tried to implement it but it's not going to work because this is a democratic  
11196 world and this is how we're being brought out to be. To be competitive with each  
11197 other (.) first of all. I'm not sure it's going to work. Mentally we are not ready.

11198 Henry: No.

11199 Gheorghe: We'll never accept this.

11200 Henry: So you see it going more towards the private (.) sort of (.) money side of things  
11201 then?

11202 Gheorghe: Last year we visited New York. We visited my cousin in New York. It was such a  
11203 shock for me (.) how many homeless people can be on the streets there. What a  
11204 cruel society (.) it's America actually. I will never live there. They simply don't  
11205 care about each other. They just step- ((name removed)) was in tears at one point.  
11206 She was in tears. She said (.) "I can't stand it anymore. They don't see (.) they don't  
11207 care."=

11208 Henry: =walking past.

11209 Gheorghe: It was really the jungle there (.) you know. Yes (.) that's it. You're dropped out of  
11210 the line (.) nobody cares.

11211 Henry: I mean their constitution (.) what is it (.) the first thing or whatever (.) that  
11212 everyone's born free?

11213 Gheorghe: First Amendment (.) yes.

11214 Henry: Everyone's free but when you're on the streets (.) it's still a great life.

11215 Gheorghe: I was joking with someone here (.) you are born to die. Simple as that there.

11216 Henry: Very much a tarnish then. Sort of going to see the city that never sleeps (.) all  
11217 these images=

11218 Gheorghe: =It's all massive and you can see the money around and everything. You feel the  
11219 pressure of everyday living. I mean people here (.) smile (.) at least they go out in  
11220 the pub. They have a beer. We are members of English Heritage for example. We  
11221 just travel when it's nice. We go to see things. We got time to enjoy our life. Even  
11222 if from Monday to Friday (.) yes (.) we're connected into the job (.) but after (.)  
11223 come on (.) let's forget about it. I always switch my work mobile off on Friday  
11224 evening. I do that. Well (.) if it's an emergency they can reach me. It's not a  
11225 problem. They know (.) they respect me. I got a private life also.

11226 Henry: It's nice that you say you feel confident in yourself to have that work-life balance.

11227 Gheorghe: I think this is why I decided to stay here (.) because there is a balance in this  
11228 country. There is a balance in between working hard and making money and do  
11229 whatever you want (.) but also living a life. It's not like France where they just  
11230 drink wine and they don't care about anything. ((laughter))

11231 Henry: Yes (.) they have a four hour break at the end of the day (.) don't they?

11232 Gheorghe: Let me finish my coffee and my croissant and I'm coming back. Or like Germany  
11233 (.) work (.) work (.) work. Arbeit (.) arbeit. Come on. Give me a break (.) honestly  
11234 give me a break because I'm tired.

11235 Henry: I suppose that sense of balance is important (.) rather than having the extremities  
11236 of New York or as you said (.) France or Germany.

11237 Gheorghe: My cousin (.) I was telling him (.) I got 28 days holiday and all these bank  
11238 holidays. I don't have to work weekends. They were just (.) "What?" I said (.)  
11239 "that's normal (.) this is how it should be all the time."

11240 Henry: Yes.

11241 Gheorghe: If I want to work nights (.) that's my choice. It's not imposed on me. Like he said  
11242 (.) "Well (.) if my phone rings like 3 o'clock in the morning (.) in half an hour I'm  
11243 at work." I said (.) "Why?" "Because if not (.) I'm sacked the very next day."

11244 Henry: It's no life (.) is it?

11245 Gheorghe: No (.) there is no life.

11246 Henry: I mean it can't be good for your health (.) more than anything. It's really tough  
11247 going. You wonder how they cope with that sort of life.

11248 Gheorghe: This is how I compare it to communist Romania also. I keep going back but it's  
11249 just coming (.) flashbacks (.) you know (.) like why people didn't care. I remember  
11250 (.) especially the men (.) they were drinking heavily. Most of them (.) they had  
11251 problems with alcohol. Why? Because it was no competition in between them.  
11252 They just met in a pub after work. "Ah (.) let's drink." It was nothing else to do for  
11253 them. To make the week better or to have a hobby.

11254 Henry: I suppose that combination of having to think in all these different new ways=

11255 Gheorghe: =Yes (.) new ideas (.) how to make this (.) how to make that.

11256 Henry: Yes and not being able to live up to that (.) but [not wanting to].

11257 Gheorghe: [You knew an]yway (.) well (.)  
11258 if I do something (.) they will come and take it away anyway (.) so there's no point.

11259 Henry: Sad really isn't it.

11260 Gheorghe: Yes. I don't want to go back to those times to live in the society (.) no.

11261 Henry: Like you say though (.) there's that sense that there are some bits that weren't  
11262 altogether bad.

11263 Gheorghe: Oh yes. I tried to figure out (.) let's take the good bits from everything and let's mix  
11264 it. Probably that would be the best system to work.

11265 Henry: I think there's definitely a case for that here (.) isn't there? When you think about  
11266 how we can let certain aspects of our life just take over and like (.) with the money  
11267 thing. We just let money drive everything we do and then before you know it (.)  
11268 people are really unhappy. Like what you're saying maybe it's just too much to  
11269 focus on (.) trying to get a better job and a better car.

11270 Gheorghe: That's down to ourselves (.) as an individual I think. That is our story (.) our  
11271 decision. I mean (.) nobody's pushing you to do that (.) unless you really want it.  
11272 It's giving you satisfaction after all.

11273 Henry: It's been really interesting chatting to you. Really interesting interview. I don't  
11274 know if there's anything else you want to=

11275 Gheorghe: =No (.) I'm fine.

11276 Henry: You feel like you've covered everything? I'll turn these off. ((transcript ends))