

## **I don't like this country near so well as old Ireland: Migration as a prism for exploring ethnolinguistic vitality**

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Research on the acquisition of English by recent migrants to Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland such as Verma et al. (1992), Schlee et al. (2011), Migge (2012) and Nestor et al. (2012) *inter alia* has generated interesting findings with respect to attitudinal disposition and the expression of personal identity through linguistic markers. It would appear that acquiring sociolinguistic competence in a new community depends in part on the extent to which individuals identify with the indigenous or exogenous values to which they are exposed. This poster reports on novel research comparing the experiences of recent socio-economic migrants to Northern Ireland in the twenty-first century with emigrants who left the region for similar reasons in the nineteenth century.

Northern Ireland historically has undergone significant emigration (O'Sullivan 1992 *inter alia*). However, the experiences reported by new inward migrants to the region, suggests that there are interesting similarities to those recorded by the Irish Diaspora in the recent DIPPAM digital letter project and in CORIECOR (Amador-Moreno and McCafferty 2012). The quotation in the title is from correspondence of this sort that will be a particular focus of the investigation reported here. It uses a variety of analytical tools and concepts like those articulated in De Fina et al. (2006) to compare the discourse typified in this emigrant correspondence with that of recent migrants drawn from ethnolinguistic interview data collected between 2013 and 2014 amongst adults, adolescents and pre-teens in different regions of Northern Ireland. There are two main objectives: (i) to demonstrate how we construct images of ourselves and the social spaces we inhabit through language; (ii) to illustrate the fact that the pressures to integrate amongst these historical and contemporary Diaspora are comparable and include a strong motivation to eradicate linguistic differences that have consequences for new dialect formation.