

Dillan Victory

Joan Haig

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### **Preliminary Project Proposal & Ethics Statement**

Where are Italians in Glasgow: has their culture integrated, evolved, disappeared, or an amalgamation of each of these? This is a broad question, which can be concretely answered in various ways; simultaneously, there are ways of answering that are quite complex and increasingly up to interpretation. The current aim is predicated on a few factors. The ability to find and ethically extract information from the Scottish/Italian residents of Glasgow. The potential relevance, and irrelevance, of religious factors, food culture, language and other facets of Italian culture. In short, historically its clear Italians are here; nevertheless, the remnants of Italian traditions are not easily seen at first glance. Scottish and Italian cultures are strong. Looking beyond the obvious, Italian culture is still quite strong and the aim of this project will be to show this through either one actor, and potentially their family, or various accounts. This methodology is sourced from Hammersley's views on oral accounts. The role of the ethnographer is key to navigating factors such as reactivity of participants and the effects which words can have. These will be considered when comparing the significance of varying accounts (Hammersley, 123).

Ethically, to procure this information, terms such as: 'Informed Consent', 'Deception', 'Interpreting Relationships,' 'Beneficence', 'Confidentiality', 'Non-Maleficence,' 'Research Integrity,' and lastly 'Justice,' from Mark Israel's piece on ethical research, are being considered

in each proposed action (Israel, 9). The goal is to orient questions and preconceived notions into a productive outlet, without neglecting to consider the feelings, honor, dignity, social space, and history of those who are ethnographically recorded.

Th ncrete evidence of the Italians in Glasgow has already been acquired and will be used to guide informed questions. This historical information was published recently in 2023:

These newcomers came mainly from Barga (Tuscany) and Picinisco (nowadays in Lazio) and mostly settled in Glasgow (around 2000) and Edinburgh (600). By the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. (Lester, 469)

The significance of details, such as this, paint a picture of what circumstances drove Italians to Scotland. Alongside what socio-economic climate Italians within diaspora would have seen, felt, and largely shaped how those cultures developed into what can be seen today. Further evidence of this development is show in Italian architecture within Glasgow for instance:

The Italian Centre was one of the first developments in an ongoing regeneration and redevelopment of the [Glaswegian] Merchant City area into a fashionable "urban village" of designer shops, clubs and restaurants. (Graham, 1)

This, importantly, adds context to the development of the modern Glasgow city center seen today. This was only built in 1991: begging the question as to where the Italian influence was in Glasgow before this time? One answer: Food. Close to the city center there is almost an Italian restaurant on every street (Tárnai, 1). One prime example is *La Lanterna*: a family restaurant claiming to be the oldest in Glasgow that is still owned by the original Italian family (Valerio, 1).



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