



21 November 2011

### **Invitation to participate in a research on the naturalisation process in Britain**

My name is Anne-Marie Fortier. I am a Reader in the Sociology Department of Lancaster University. I am conducting a research project into the application process for British citizenship and I would like to invite you to participate. The title of the study is 'Affecting Citizenship: the naturalisation process in Britain'

This study is funded by the British Academy. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to give me permission to observe an ESOL with citizenship content class that you provide.

The observations will take place at a mutually agreed time and place. I wish to attend 5 ESOL with citizenship content classes, and each observation would last for the duration of the class. I will not participate nor will I intervene in the class. I will be taking notes and, with your permission, recording the session. This is necessary so that I can better reflect on the process afterwards. See the section on further information below.

Participation is entirely confidential. Information will be kept in a secure location at Lancaster University. The results of the study will be published and presented at academic and non-academic conferences and events, but the school's, your and the students' identities will not be revealed.

### **Further information**

#### *What is the purpose of this study?*

The study aims to understand people's experiences of the new British citizenship application process, whether they are applicants or non-applicants (such as ESOL teachers, registrars at local authorities, ceremonies officers, etc.). Because the application process is relatively new in Britain (since 2004), there is little research about how people experience the process and how it affects their understanding of citizenship and belonging. This study will look at what British citizenship (and citizenship generally) means, how it is presented to applicants and non-applicants, how they make sense of what is presented, and how they experience the different steps of the process.

*Why have I been invited to participate?*

I am looking for participants from the North-West who are involved in the citizenship application process either as applicants, or as employees or officials who dispense services to applicants. I will be individually interviewing a total of 40 applicants and non-applicants. But to complement the interviews, I aim to observe ESOL classes in order to look how *in practice*, citizenship is taught. My aim is not to define what 'good' practice is. It is rather to observe what people do, and how they learn and teach citizenship in a group setting.

*What will happen if I take part?*

Taking part in the research is entirely voluntary. If you decide to participate, we will make arrangements about which ESOL class is most convenient for you. You will have nothing to prepare before the observation, and you will not be expected to include me in the class. I will be recording the class (providing everyone agrees) and I will be taking notes, so that I have as faithful a record of it as possible, and so that I can reflect on it afterwards.

Although you probably won't benefit directly from participating in this study, I hope that society in general will. The study will give a unique insight into the citizenship application process in Britain, and will hopefully be of interest to policy makers, civil servants, ESOL providers and future applicants. More broadly, the study will inform understandings of citizenship in Britain today, from the point of view of those who are directly implicated in the 'making' of British citizenship.

*Will what I say in this study be kept confidential?*

All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. I will present the findings of the research to academic conferences and I will write about it in reports, academic articles and books. But all participants will be anonymised and any details that might identify an individual will be altered in any presentation or publication. Only I will know the identities of the participants and ESOL provider. Each observation recording will be identified only by a number, and I will personally transcribe any recording or section thereof that includes participant details.

*What will happen to the results of the research study?*

I will describe the findings of the study in presentations to academic conferences and I will publish the findings in reports and academic articles and books. I will give a copy of the reports and articles to all participants.

*Who is organising and funding the research?*

I am conducting the research as a member of staff in the Sociology Department at Lancaster University. It is part of a tradition of sociological research that aims to understand how society works, how it is changing, and how this affects people's lives. The project is currently funded by the British Academy, the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences. One of its roles is to fund research projects.

*Who has reviewed the study?*

This study has been approved by Lancaster University's Research Ethics Committee. The project abides by the British Sociological Association's Code of Ethical Practice.

*What should I do if I want to take part?*

If you would like to be interviewed as part of this project, or if you would like more information about the project, please contact me by email or by phone:

Email: [a.fortier@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.fortier@lancaster.ac.uk)

Office tel. number: 01524 594911

You can find out more about me at my university web page:  
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/sociology/profiles/Anne-Marie-Fortier/>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Fortier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Anne-Marie Fortier  
Reader in Social and Cultural Studies

*If you have any concerns about the way this study is being conducted that you do not wish to discuss with me, you may contact the Head of the Sociology Department, Dr Tim Dant (email: [t.dant@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:t.dant@lancaster.ac.uk), tel: 01524 594183).*