



University of  
Bedfordshire

Bedford and Luton

# The press, persuasion and prejudice.

*The challenging and re-enforcing of  
mechanisms of cultural inclusion and  
exclusion of migrants in Italy and  
Britain in recent newspaper coverage.*

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Rotterdam, 19-20 November 2015**

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# Introduction



Hungarian soldiers clearing up a barbed wire fence on the Slovenian-Hungarian border. Source: The Guardian





## **Perception percentage of immigrants**

Italy: perception 30%; reality 7%

UK: perception 24%, reality 13%

Source: Ipos-Mori, 2014

## **Degree of confidence about EU**

Italy: 27.4%

UK: 28%

Source: Demos & Pi, 2015

## **Inter-relationship between immigration and Euroscepticism**

- ✓ EU migration (mainly UK issue)
- ✓ EU responses to the migration crises (UK and Italy)
- ✓ Hard Euroscepticism (UK)
- ✓ Soft Euroscepticism (ITALY)

- ✓ Cameron demanding restriction of free movement within the EU (and UK's renegotiation)
- ✓ Intransigence of Cameron regarding Syrians refugees
- ✓ Renzi's fury at the lack of help from EU at Lampedusa's crisis
- ✓ Renzi's attack on other EU Prime Ministers concerning immigrants-quota
- ✓ Both of the national responses to the picture of the dead boy on a Turkish coast



## Right-leaning

*The Guardian* (UK)

*La Repubblica* (I)

Anti-immigration  
agenda, sensationalist  
headlines and copy

## Left-leaning

*The Daily Express* (UK)

*Il Giornale* (I)

Less defensive and  
more sensitised to  
issues of migration

## Some findings

*A new surge of illegal immigrants threatens the European Union. Six rowing boats and a further 16 dinghies are steering towards Italy*

(Il Giornale, 22 August 2015)

*Italy's coastguard has successfully coordinated the rescue of about 3,000 migrants in the Mediterranean, after receiving distress calls from more than 20 overcrowded vessels drifting in waters off Libya*

(The Guardian, 22 August 2015)