

**Phase Two: Towards Autonomy**  
**An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of the Lived Experience of**  
**Refugees placed at the Italian System of Protection for Refugees and Asylum**  
**Seekers (SPRAR)**

An Abstract of the Thesis by  
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In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of refugees in Italy. The majority are placed in reception facilities provided by the government, which are divided into ‘*First Reception Structures*’ and ‘*Second Reception Structures*’. The present study focused on these second reception structure, also known as System of Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seeker (SPRAR) and has examined, through the use of the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), how the main actors perceive the interventions and services provided for them to become '*autonomous*' individuals. The research findings showed that several elements act as constraining factors for refugees to exercise agency at the Sprar and become autonomous individuals in the new society they are placed. These elements are the general attitudes of the society towards refugees, the limited opportunities in the territory and the unequal power relation between operator and refugees.