

## **Integrating Identity, Strategy and Communications for Trust, Loyalty and Commitment**

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## **Abstract**

**Purpose** – This paper operationalize and juxtaposes variables related to identity, strategy and communications and then focuses on the impact of such integration on organizational stakeholders' trust, loyalty and commitment.

**Design/methodology/approach** – This research design utilises explanatory research at the preliminary stage, as informed by the literature and conceptual framework. The subsequent model was examined via a positivist survey carried out among stakeholders in high-end retail stores in London. Structural equation modelling (SEM) via AMOS was conducted to gain insight into the various influences and relationships.

**Findings** – The results indicate that identity and strategy are key drivers of integrated corporate communication, and they serve to build stakeholder trust, loyalty and commitment.

**Originality/value** – The paper shows that while practitioners have indicated that integrated marketing communication is important for organizations, there are a few other areas of concern with regard to consequences related to trust, loyalty and commitment, especially in a retail context. We empirically examined relationships between these constructs by validating a conceptual model employing SEM.

**Keywords** – Identity, Strategy, Communications, Trust, Loyalty, Commitment

**Paper type** - Research paper

## **Introduction**

Changes in the marketing environment with the introduction of new media are driving the need for more efficient and cost-effective communication (Low, 2000). Hence, managers approach, articulate and implement their company's marketing communication strategies using integrated tactics. According to Kitchen and Burgmann (2010) and Kitchen et al. (2004), marketing managers should consider integration of different marketing approaches not as part of their marketing-mix, but as a holistic concept. The concept chosen should employ all the elements of marketing-mix to promote and reinforce customer interactions and distribute integrated messages to the appropriate target audience. Companies that obviously struggle to efficiently deliver their services and to survive in the global competitive market consider Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) as a strategy for aligning their marketing messages with the marketing objectives of managers and the target audience.

Kitchen et al. (2004) state that when IMC is enforced, it enables marketers to recognize the needs of stakeholders, particularly of employees and suppliers. Scholars also believe that is it not possible to have a global definition of IMC, although the main benefit of IMC is understood to be its capability to transfer reliable, consistent and allied messages to the target audiences through a set of channels (Low, 2000; Phelps and Johnson, 1996). The use of IMC to develop relationships and create a distinctive identity distinguishes the company from its competitors (Balmer et al., 2007; Van Riel and Balmer, 1997). A study by Kerr et al. (2008) explains IMC as a key communication tool which plays a significant role in building public and media relations. Effective advertising, sales promotion and direct marketing are the core channels for delivering messages with accuracy and reliability.

Research studies such as Gurau (2008) and Hallahan (2007) assert that the association between public relations and IMC achieves the purpose of creating a long term customer-centric mind set and customer relationships. The aim of public relations is to generate signals to attract attention to the company's brand/product and services by creating awareness through events and mass media (Kotler et al., 2005). Consequently PR has the most significant roles within the IMC process. Grunig (2006) stated that the public relations concept is an independent strategic function rather than being a marketing function or a component of integrated marketing communication. Kotler et al. (2005) confirm that the important aim of public relations is to generate and provide information to an audience through mass media tools, and to attract their attention and generate awareness.

Unfortunately, previous research studies have explored these different issues in isolation, and argued about the variables that influence the context in which they operate, and they have failed to consider these factors from a retail perspective. There is no research that discusses the operationalization of variables related to identity, strategy and communications together with a focus on trust, loyalty and commitment of stakeholders to an organization. Integrating corporation into communications implies that it is important to create and accomplish stakeholders' perceptions toward the company. Simoes et al. (2005) state that the importance of 'consistency in corporate communications has fuelled interest in integrated marketing communications'.

The next section provides a brief, general discussion about the influence of nexuses between identity and strategy on integrated marketing communication elements, which express our consumer level conceptual framework. The next section explains the methodology used by the authors to evaluate the proposed model. Finally, the authors conclude with a discussion of the theoretical significance of this study and implications and limitations of the research.

### ***Identity***

The management of corporate identity is of great significance for the success of any organization (Schultz and Kitchen, 1997). Although according to Melewar (2003) there is no common definition of corporate identity, the understanding of the concept of corporate identity is fairly homogenous. He used the common definition that 'corporate identity is a mix of characteristics that a company possesses as a subject' (Melewar, 2003).

According to scholars, corporate identity is made up of the distinctive characteristics of a company which form a central and integrative function within the company and its competitive strategy. In addition, corporate identity performs a pivotal role which addresses four questions: "who you are, what you do, how you do it and where you want to go" (Balmer, 2001; He and Balmer, 2005, p.6). In addition, identity is a powerful tool that influences the strategy content by providing a communication system to the company's stakeholders (He and Balmer, 2005). Balmer and Wilson (1998) encapsulated this approach in their definition as "corporate identity is the total of visual and non-visual means applied by a company to present itself to all its relevant target groups on the basis of a corporate identity plan" (p. 15). Corporate identity is a unique feature that a corporation or brand transmits about itself, embracing values and communication. Furthermore, Balmer (2001) defines the corporate identity mix as communications, which need to be integrated. Researchers have

stated how corporate identity and its components should be communicated internally and externally (Balmer, 2001). Moreover, Cornelissen and Harris (2001) clarified the definition of corporate identity as a “tangible symbol of the company’s personality, the symbol which is manifest in the behaviour and communication of an organization” (p. 56). Abratt’s (1989) model considers the concept of ‘interface’ in corporate identity and corporate image. Organizations harmonise both internal and external communications to generate favourable images of the company for target audiences. The following communicators of the corporate image were mentioned: nomenclature, formal statements (mission), corporate communication, visual identity, graphics and imagery (stationery and buildings), and promotional media (public relations and advertising). It is important that these sources communicate a consistent image to the company’s internal and external stakeholders (Cian and Cervai, 2014).

### **Strategy**

Integrated marketing communication is “the strategic coordination of all the company’s messages as well as the media used by an organization to impact on the company’s perceived value”. By integrating the communication strategies, synergies are created among different forms of communication. All forms of communication that express an image and seek an integrated approach to articulate a company’s identity should be consistent messages which are transmitted by external and internal methods of communication (Simoes et al., 2005). Gilly and Wolfinbarger (1998) analysed the impact of advertising upon an internal audience and the importance of involving employees in communications; they stressed the need for integrated and consistent communications. Communication effectiveness may relate to previous familiarity of the customers with the advertised brand or company (Campbell and Keller, 2003). Corporate personality is defined by Abratt (1989) as the sum total of the characteristics of the company - behavioural and intellectual characteristics - which serve to distinguish one organization from another (p. 413). Some authors (Balmer and Wilson, 1998; Van Riel and Balmer, 1997) believe that these characteristics are the attitudes and beliefs which shared by the organization’s employees. The link between corporate brand identity and strategy is a very significant concept as it illustrates the company’s aims, ethos and values. All these factors can demonstrate a sense of distinctiveness that can distinguish an organization from its competitors through the company’s visual cues.

### **Marketing communication**

It is vital for an organization's marketing managers to realize which communication tools, channels and messages are more powerful in the company's stakeholders' perception (Kitchen, 2005). Additionally, managing the company's identity and its communication should be based on the company's consumers' response towards the messages, so it is important to examine communication from a receiver's viewpoint in order to reveal how organizational cues are collected and interpreted. Stakeholders can be passive receivers of organization communication, and can also positively influence organizations. Van Riel and Balmer (1997) assert that a company's communications can play a critical role, for instance in regard to corporate personality and corporate visual identity, which are recognized in the literature of corporate identity. Abratt's (1989) model, called "the corporate image management process" (p. 203), was the first attempt to demonstrate the link between personality, identity and image, which sets out the foundation for corporate image. The visual/graphic designers and marketers realised the effectiveness of consistency in design and marketing communications, which impact on the consistency of the company's formal corporate communications (Van Riel and Balmer, 1997). Communicators such as advertising, corporate logo, buildings, etc. can form the customers' perceptions of the intended corporate identity. The essence of a brand features the shape of the brand in the form of a corporate logo, which is always present and is important as a product and corporate differentiator to convey a favourable corporate image (Foroudi et al., 2014; Hatch and Schultz, 2001; Henderson and Cote, 1998) when compared to competitors (Kotler, 2000).

The concept of communication can be considered as a bridge that links the company's identity with the image of the company (He and Mukherjee, 2009, p. 3). In addition, it can influence the company's strategy and provide a corporate communication system to the stakeholders (Hatch and Schultz, 1997; He and Mukherjee, 2009). Stuart (1999) states that he "considered that both organizational and marketing communications are the central forms of communication between identity and image". Also, communication can shape the connection between a company's personality and identity (p. 204). Van Rekom (1997) highlights how the purpose of corporate communications is to improve a certain desired corporate image for target audiences (p. 411). According to Simoes et al. (2005), gaining a competitive advantage from messages needs the integration of communications between internal and external stakeholders (p. 156).

## **Conceptual framework Overview**

Our model articulates the individual level dynamics of IMC in terms of two relationships. The conceptualised model emphasises the relationship between the concept of identity and strategy, and the main antecedent of IMC and its outcomes. This study argues that in today's era of unprecedented organizational impacts and consumerism, some companies offer meaningful controlled and uncontrolled communication to their audience which assists them to satisfy their chief self-definitional requirements. As a result, such organizations establish communication through different cues to create valid targets for trust, loyalty and commitment among relevant consumers, even though they are not prototypical consumers. We suggest that identity "forms a central and integrative function within the corporate and competitive strategy and that corporate identity forms a pivotal role which can influence the strategy content as well as providing a corporate communication system to stakeholders" (He and Mukherjee, 2009, p.3). More important, it suggests that the ideal identity is the optimum philosophy, vision, and value (Hatch and Schultz, 1997; Simoes et al., 2005), personality (Aaker, 1997) and the organization's positioning in its marketplace (or markets) (Das, 2014) in a given time-frame which creates trust, loyalty and commitment from consumers (Figure 1). The model also reflects a link between consumers' perceptions of a company or brand identity to strategy which is linked to IMC (controlled communication and uncontrolled communication). Specifically customers are more likely to use their perceptions of company strategy from their judgement about the brand/company distinctiveness, brand/company social responsibility (link between competitive advantage and corporate social behaviour in generic ways) and the governance, which is the empowerment either explicitly or implicitly by governments and international organizations with the right to make decisions for others. Reactions of consumers in this setting depend on the extent to which they receive information from communication tools that they know and trust; these may generate loyalty and commitment to the company or brand.

We reflect on the argument of Kitchen (2005) that communication has a wide influence on how an organization presents its image verbally and visually. Communication can be considered as the aggregate of messages from official and unofficial sources, via a diversity of media whereby a company can transfer its identity to its various audiences (Melewar, 2003). Brown and Dacin (1997) state that strategic management puts a substantial effort into the company's identity management, however it is not easy to understand whether it is the planned communication response to the company's efforts that influence the internal stakeholders' perception. Some scholars have emphasized the importance of consistency

between identity and communication (Van Riel and Balmer, 1997). In addition, the strategic management of messages and the media employed by an organization influences its perceived value. IMC as a key concept of marketing communications planning can add value and be used to evaluate the company's strategic roles (for example, sales promotion, direct response, general advertising and public relations) and associations of all these disciplines can deliver consistency, clarity and maximum communications impact (Schultz and Kitchen, 1997, p.9).

### **Identity, strategy, controlled communication and uncontrolled communication**

Corporate identity is demonstrated in the communications of an organization (Balmer and Wilson, 1998; Cornelissen and Harris, 2001; Van Riel and Balmer, 1997). Also, communication is the touchstone for demonstrating an identity and is recognized as such in the identity creation process. Communication is everything in and about an organization and it has an extensive impact. Studies on consumer behaviour have extensively acknowledged that communication - from company stationary to promotion and internal/external communications - influences stakeholders' behaviour and attitudes (Lau and Ng, 2001). According to Belch and Belch (2011), advertising is a key element of promotion in organizations, as it informs their audience about their brands, their key benefits, accessibility and position, while IMC puts emphasis on supporting a consistent message to demonstrate their brands through diverse ways (Kliatchko, 2008). Luck and Moffatt (2009) claimed that the role of promotion in integrated marketing communication is to deliver adequate information to the audience about the brand in a way that is consistent with how the firm describes its identity and image. In addition, they recommend that promotion contributes to a very distinctive identity, by maintaining the reliability shaped by the brand. This is predominantly important in the context of integrated marketing communication as it stresses the brand image formed by the company. Furthermore, Belch and Belch (2011) then proposed that the key vital value of integrated marketing communication is to demonstrate the integrity of the product to customers, regardless of the kinds of communication tools elected to convey the message.

Corporate communication can impact on the organization's uniqueness in addition to its products and services, sales promotion, sponsorship and direct selling, advertising, corporate advertising and public relations activities (Barich and Kotler, 1991). A company communicates in both a controlled and an uncontrolled manner to make the organization



distinctive. Therefore, in addition, public relations and corporate advertising activities are directed at brand recognition and familiarity rather than at individual promotions communicating a company's corporate identity.

Corporate communications have been classified into internal and external and are considered as a function of human resources, public relations and marketing communications departments in an organization. As explained in existing academic literature, these departments use corporate communications for communicating to internal and external audiences about policy, about crises, about promotions, about marketing initiatives etc. by means of various vehicles such as logo, fonts, typefaces, code of conduct, email etiquettes, branding, recognition rewards, customer relationship strategies, marketing collaterals etc. Van Riel (1995) reviewed corporate communications from an organizational function point of view and classified them into management communications, marketing communications and organizational communications. Classification of corporate communications by Balmer (1995) indicates that the corporate communications mix incorporates primary, secondary and tertiary communications. The embeddedness of a company's communications to stakeholders into concepts like mission, vision, strategies, identity, image, reputation is also reflected in marketing literature by authors such as Lau and Ng (2001). Barich and Kotler (1991) explain that controlled marketing communication activities position a company's brand in the marketplace, as well as promote the company itself. Simoes et al. (2005) refer to corporate identity as an uncontrolled communication and reflect on it as the way in which an organization's identity is revealed through its behaviour and symbolism towards internal and external audiences. Based on this, the following hypotheses are derived:

*H1: The more favourable the brand identity is perceived by consumers, the more favourable the attitude consumers have towards the brand strategy.*

*H2: The more favourable the brand identity is perceived by consumers, the more favourable the attitude consumers have towards the brand controlled communication.*

*H3: The more favourable the brand identity is perceived by consumers, the more favourable the attitude consumers have towards the brand uncontrolled communication.*

*H4: The more favourable the brand strategy is perceived by consumers, the more favourable the attitude consumers have towards the brand controlled communication.*

*H5: The more favourable the brand strategy is perceived by consumers, the more favourable the attitude consumers have towards the brand uncontrolled communication.*

## **Controlled communication, uncontrolled communication, trust, loyalty and commitment**

Controlled and uncontrolled corporate communication are part of overall corporate communication. Both concepts are part of the company's management tools; all deliberately employed forms of communication (internal and external) are consistently efficient and professional in generating a favourable basis for an association with a company's stakeholders (Van Rekom, 1997). A key element of controlled corporate communication is recognized as visual identity/design, which is a tangible centrepiece of the company's identity; it forms the physical symbols and produces physical recognition of the company (Olins, 1991). Nevertheless, the intangibility of brand exacerbates the effort of managing the visual identity of the company. For instance, logo, name and design all aim to transmit the tangible hints that influence consumers' perception. The organization's design can be viewed as long or short-term commitment. Additionally, the visual identity/design components indicate the organization's culture, which must be recognized by the organization's stakeholders to make an impact on their trust, loyalty and commitment. A website is an essential communication function (Kim and Stoel, 2004) and is considered as an organization's virtual storefront (Argyriou et al., 2006). It provides general audience information about the firm and its products/services and promotes a positive corporate and product/brand image to improve trust, loyalty and commitment. Promotion is a kind of advertising of a product to endorse its effectiveness to deliver customers different levels of hedonic benefits. Promotion is an opportunity for exploration, value expression and practical benefits such as improving shopping convenience, savings and higher product quality (Chandon et al., 2000). Promotion as a key element of controlled communication provides recognisability and evokes an emotional response towards the company.

Organizations have many ways to communicate in order to create the organization's distinguishing features. Therefore, in addition to visual identity, website and promotion, managers use uncontrolled communication. The key elements of uncontrolled communication have been identified as word-of-mouth or tertiary communications, which is a message that is imparted about the organization by third parties. WOM can impact on consumers' perceptions and expectations throughout their search for information and the purchase process; also, it influences their attitude during the re-purchase evaluation of alternative brands. WOM can impact their decisions either positively or negatively. Public relations and media relations are the significant functions for the maintenance of relations with the company's public, and are relied on for success, legitimacy and growth (Broom, 2011).

Public relations' activities are focused on an organization's familiarity and recognition rather than on individual promotions communicating a company's corporate/brand identity. However, media and public relation activities are gradually being recognized by the marketers as important components of the integrated marketing communication arsenal; however there is a lack of studies on public relations and marketing communication. Hallahan (2007) states that public relations' literature recognised communication as "fragmentary and hardly conclusive" (p.308). Grunig (2006) emphasised on the association between IMC and public relations as an independent strategic function (Grunig, 2006). Integrated marketing communication can be perceived as a marketing planning process. However, IMC can trigger public relations' authors' doubts about marketing as the prevailing purpose of communication (Grunig et al., 2002) and public relations as a marketing support purposes (Debreceeny and Cochrane, 2004; Hendrix, 2004; Keh et al., 2007).

Alden et al. (2011) found the best three integrated marketing communication practices for social media marketing to be (i) the brand should be promoted consistently within different elements of the communication mix; (ii) the 4Ps should be integrated; and (iii) communication should provide information on positive social behaviour changes and actions. Whereas commercial marketers mostly emphasise the first principle when they mention IMC, social media marketers consider the efficiency of their interventions and usually use all three tenets for planning an advertising campaign, and they refer to this as the ISMC approach (integrated social marketing communications). ISMC scholars (Grier and Bryant, 2005; Maibach, 2002) refer to social marketing promotion as an integrated constituent of the social marketing endeavours. An original and creative programme can produce a higher level of customer attention. The social marketing and IMC relationship stresses the importance of integrating communications with elements of the communication mix (Deshpande et al., 2004; Smith, 2009). The internet is a significant medium and channel for marketing and is an important part of a firm's multichannel strategy (Bart et al., 2005). In order to exploit this channel effectively, firms need to create long term relationships with customers. In order to cultivate relationships, customer trust is important (Dwyer et al., 1987; Shankar et al., 2003). Developing a successful marketing strategy would require an understanding of the way consumer trust is developed and how trust impacts consumer behaviour (Bart et al., 2005). Alden et al. (2011) believe that by integrating the approach to social marketing, managers could deliver more consistency in the brand's promotional efforts through the communications mix; this results in synergy, which improves the influence on consumer trust, loyalty and commitment. Taken from the above, we postulate the following:

- H6: The more favourable the brand's controlled communication is perceived by consumers, the more favourable the attitude consumers have towards the brand's uncontrolled communication.*
- H7: The more favourable the brand's controlled communication is perceived by consumers, the more favourable trust consumers have towards the company.*
- H8: The more favourable the brand's controlled communication is perceived by consumers, the more favourable loyalty consumers have towards the company.*
- H9: The more favourable the brand's controlled communication is perceived by consumers, the more favourable commitment consumers have towards the company.*
- H10: The more favourable the brand's uncontrolled communication is perceived by consumers, the more favourable trust consumers have towards the company.*
- H11: The more favourable the brand's uncontrolled communication is perceived by consumers, the more favourable loyalty consumers have towards the company.*
- H12: The more favourable the brand's uncontrolled communication is perceived by consumers, the more favourable commitment consumers have towards the company.*

### **Trust, loyalty and commitment**

The relationships between trust, loyalty and commitment were based on the seminal paper by Morgan and Hunt (1994) on relationship marketing. The commitment-trust theory makes relationship marketing more successful because it inspires marketers to aim at “preserving relationship investments by co-operating with exchange partners; resist attractive short-term alternatives in favour of the expected long-term benefits; and view potentially high-risk options as being prudent because of the belief that their partners will not act opportunistically” (Mukherjee and Nath, 2007, p.1176). Trust is defined as a psychological state of accepting vulnerability by expecting positive behaviour and intention of others (Rousseau et al., 1998). Trust is the confidence about a website or social media as an element of uncontrollable communication to deliver according to the expectation, which is based on prior experience (Gefen, 2000). Trust can therefore moderate loyalty and strengthen customer commitment. Trust is an important aspect of building a long term relationship with customers. In addition, trust can be linked to the perception of consumers about the ability to meet the customers' loyalty. Loyalty can be defined as “a deeply held commitment to re-buy or re-patronize a preferred product or service consistently in the future, thereby causing repetitive same-brand set purchasing, despite situational influences and marketing efforts having the potential to cause switching behaviour” (Chaudhuri and Holbrook, 2001, p.82). According to Ponsonby-McCabe and Boyle (2006), the key issues which encourage the consumers to become loyal to the brand are (i) willingness to re-purchase over and over again and (ii) the

belief that the consumption experience is good value for the price paid (p.180). Well-designed communication can have an impact on trust and loyalty, and impact the commitment of stakeholders to an organization. The interactions between the constructs draw customers into the centre of the company's networks (Rao et al., 2000) by increasing the salience of the organization identity in the mind of consumers, and increasing the likelihood of their commitment. Based on all the different arguments presented by various scholars, such as Kitchen (2005) and Van Riel (1995), we offer trust, loyalty and commitment as consequences of communications.

Furthermore, customers who are loyal to the company are less likely to switch and they make more purchases compared to non-loyal customers. Also, loyal consumers may be willing to pay more for services or products, because they perceive some distinctive value in the brand compared to its competitors (Reichheld, 1996). Studies show that satisfying customers is very significant for the success of any company; however, there is no guarantee that the satisfied customer will come back and repeat the purchase. In addition, loyalties can influence commitment to the brand, as commitment is a psychological brand attachment which leads a customer to a state of motivation (Eagly and Chaiken, 1995). The motivation produced by high levels of commitment which is behavioural and attitudinal can be assumed to replace the selective cognitive processing of information which filters out aspects threatening to the customers' attitude. Thus, according to the discussion that highlights the significance of trust, its ambiguous association with loyalty and commitment, and lastly, the significance in the current context of the research, it is hypothesized that:

*H13: The more favourable the trust is perceived by consumers, the more favourable loyalty consumers have towards the company.*

*H14: The more favourable the loyalty is perceived by consumers, the more favourable commitment consumers have towards the company.*

**<<Insert Figure 1: The Conceptual Framework>>**

## **Methods**

### *The study's context and data collection*

The results of this study are based on data which are collected from a well-recognized retail store in London. The high-end retail stores in London have well-known brands and are destinations for tourists and non-tourist visitors. According to Dennis et al. (2014), the high-end store can influence consumers' perception associated with its brand identity. An

exploratory study was conducted in this study to gain an in-depth understanding of the research questions in the retail industry. To develop an appropriate scale, we follow Churchill's (1979) procedures in order (i) to gain an in-depth understanding of the research area (Dacin and Brown, 2002), (ii) to understand the actual practice in the field in order to gauge whether the proposed research study is relevant, and (iii) to obtain insightful information and understand the proposed research questions, generate hypotheses and refine the measures for a questionnaire (Churchill, 1979).

Nine interviews were conducted with academics and experts. The data collected assisted the researchers to narrow the search from broad to more specific and concrete data. The main scale measurements were generated from the preliminary qualitative research and literature review. Afterwards, the list was checked for inter-judge reliability by five academics in the field of branding and marketing. They commented on the suitability of the items and checked the clarity of wording; their suggestions were then incorporated. Also, they were asked about the significance of each statement and to indicate which items should be retained (Lichtenstein et al., 1990).

Then, to examine the research's conceptual model, a pre-test was conducted among 45 academics and practitioners to examine the suitability, validity and freedom from error of the measures developed. All responses were measured using a seven-point Likert-type scale (from 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree). At this stage, reliability as an essential condition of validity and exploratory factor analysis (EFA) were tested to identify any patterns in the data (De Vaus, 2002). The scales illustrated a high degree of reliability, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.95; this is greater than 0.70, which is appropriate for most research purposes (De Vaus, 2002; Hair et al., 2006; Nunnally, 1978). After the validation process (pre-test), the main data set was collected from a self-structured administered questionnaire. Based on the study by Dennis et al. (2014) to represent sample as practicable of shoppers in the store, a usable sample of 347 internal and external stakeholders (employees and visitors to the store) collected on various days and hours including weekdays and weekends over a two month period. This includes 105 male and 242 female respondents (plus five other missing answers to the gender question). The distribution according to ethnic group was 25% Asian, 18.7% mixed/multiple ethnic groups, 17.3% English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish, 14.7% Mediterranean, 8.6% Black/African/Caribbean and 15.3% others. The respondents were mainly undergraduate (47.6) with the average age of 30 to 39 years (40.6), and 20 to 29 years old (27.7%). Respondents were mainly students (44.7%) or employees at the store (16.4%). Table I provides further details on the sample frame.

## **<<Insert Table I: Respondents' characteristics>>**

### **The survey measures**

The questionnaires contained measures based on previous research and qualitative study. There are seven main constructs in the current research: (i) identity (CBI), (ii) strategy (STR), (iii) controlled communication (CCC), (iv) uncontrolled communication (UCC), (v) trust (CBT), (vi) loyalty (CBL) and (vii) commitment (CBC). Identity is defined as the characteristics, features, attributes or traits of an organization that are recognized to be central, enduring and distinctive through company's guidelines, personality and positioning (Balmer, 2001; He and Balmer, 2005; He and Mukherjee, 2009; Van Riel and Balmer, 1997). The company's guidelines were measured by using four items (philosophy, value, vision and mission). The variable 'personality' was obtained based on previous conceptualizations (sincere, excited, competence, sophistication and rugged), in particular those described by Aaker (1997). Positioning was measured as the respondents' perception toward the companies' target market, competition, product category and brand promise.

Corporate strategy can be defined as the master plan of an organization which circumscribes the company's services/products, its total objectives and the policies through which it competes in its specific marketplace (Melewar, 2003). The variable strategy was measured through three constructs: (i) differentiation (customer focus, unique selling point, customer knowledge and customer satisfaction), (ii) social responsibility (social participation, ethical, honest and transparent) and (iii) governance (policy, procedures, standards, accountability and equality). Appendix I illustrates the study constructs and scale items.

Controlled communication is the tool of management by means of which all consciously employed forms of external and internal communication are harmonized successfully and professionally to generate a favourable basis for associations with the stakeholders upon whom the organization is dependent (Melewar, 2003; Van Rekom, 1997). Controlled communication consists of three key elements: (i) Visual identity/design (logo, name, colour and design) (Foroudi et al., 2014), (ii) promotion (product launches, sponsorships, events and loyalty incentives), and (iii) website. The measurement for website was based on previous studies (Alwi, 2009; Argyriou et al., 2006; Halliburton and Ziegfeld, 2009). Previous studies recognized antecedents of website design utilised here; these include navigation, design/layout/appearance, functionality and usability, customization, security, availability and information.

Semi/uncontrolled communication is defined as the organizational communication by sending signals that are not created consciously or deliberately (Melewar, 2003) and it is measured by means of four elements: (i) word-of-mouth (consumers, suppliers, business customers, investors), (ii) public relations (media engagement, content management, event management and industry awards), (iii) media relations (print media, electronic media, television and radio), and (iv) social media (marketing podcasts, blogs, social networking websites and search engine optimization).

Trust can be defined as the reliability of a brand or the willingness of the average consumer to trust the capability of the brand to achieve its stated function and develop a long-lasting relationship (Chaudhuri and Holbrook, 2001). It can be measured through reliability, social consciousness, familiarity and identification. In addition, based on the definition by Chaudhuri and Holbrook (2001), loyalty is the devotion that leads to greater market-share when a similar brand is constantly purchased by specific customers. The loyalty is related to experience, credibility, trendiness and innovation. Commitment can be described as a psychological bond that characterizes an individual's relationship with an organization (Bateman et al., 2011) in four aspects: brand relevance, brand love, brand dominance, brand preference.

### *Analyses and results*

The study followed a measure validation procedure through a two-step approach based on Anderson and Gerbing (1988). In the first stage of analysis, EFA (exploratory factor analysis) was run to achieve the theoretically expected factor solutions (Hair et al., 2006). All the scales illustrated acceptable reliability (Cronbach's alpha  $>.931$ ) (Nunnally, 1978). Bartlett's test of Sphericity showed the association between the measurement items to be higher than 0.3 and this is also appropriate for EFA (Hair et al., 2006). In addition, KMO's measure of sampling adequacy is 0.941. This is greater than 0.6, which suggests suitability for EFA; furthermore the relationships between the items are statistically significant and provide a parsimonious set of factors (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2007). The results from descriptive statistics and correlation matrix for the constructs illustrated that the correlation between each pair of latent variables was significantly less than 1 (Appendix I).

In the second stage of analysis, the analysis was run using AMOS 21 (analysis of moment structures) using the default method – Maximum Likelihood (ML). In this stage, CFA (confirmatory factor analysis) was used to measure the construct uni-dimensionality; the investigation of each item was internally consistent and confirmed the constructs on the basis



of the measurement models (Gerbing and Anderson, 1988). Additionally, discriminant validity indicated that relationships between the research factors were less than the suggested value of .92 (Kline, 2005). In addition, the homogeneity of the construct was examined by convergent validity which was inspected on the basis of construct reliabilities (Anderson and Gerbing, 1988). AVE (average variance extracted) for each construct ranged from .503 to .818. A good rule of thumb is that an AVE of .5 or higher indicates adequate convergent validity. Then, the analysis proceeded to 'Step Two Approach' known as the structural model.

In this stage, the structural model fit was examined throughout goodness-of-fit indices (Df–degrees of freedom, 5043.695; RMSEA–Root mean square error of approximation, .058; CFI–Comparative fit index, .921; IFI–Incremental Fit Index, .921; and TLI–Tucker-Lewis index, .917). The 'favourable' fit values provide a satisfactory fit to the data and therefore indicate the uni-dimensionality of the measures (Anderson and Gerbing, 1988). Afterwards, the hierarchical linear regression analysis was used to test the research hypotheses. Given the directional nature of the research hypotheses, the examinations are all one-tailed.

Table II illustrates the final research model with structural path coefficients and *t*-values for each relationship and with squared multiple correlations (*R*<sup>2</sup>) for each endogenous construct. The H1, proposing the direct effect of identity on strategy (H1:  $\beta=.652$ ,  $t=8.880$ ), was statistically supported. H2 and H3 address the impact of identity on controlled communication and uncontrolled communication ( $\beta=.332$ ,  $t=4.628$ ;  $\beta=.406$ ,  $t=3.451$  respectively) and the significant relationships were confirmed. The findings signify that the relationship between strategy and controlled communication (H4) was significant ( $\beta=.691$ ,  $t=7.025$ ). With regard to research hypothesis H5, the unexpected result shows the relationship between strategy and uncontrolled communication ( $\beta=-.200$ ,  $t=-1.132$ ) was non-significant. H6, H7, H8 and H9 address the impact of controlled communication on uncontrolled communication, trust, loyalty and commitment (H6:  $\beta=.783$ ,  $t=3.018$ ; H7:  $\beta=.643$ ,  $t=2.916$ ; H8:  $\beta=1.722$ ,  $t=5.187$ ; H9:  $\beta=.580$ ,  $t=3.359$  respectively) and the significant relationships were confirmed. The standardized regression path between uncontrolled communication and trust (H10:  $\beta=-.344$ ,  $t=-1.710$ ,  $p=.087>.05$ ) and uncontrolled communication and commitment (H12:  $\beta=-.262$ ,  $t=-1.484$ ,  $p=.138>.05$ ) were rejected because the results were not statistically significant. As a result, it may be a challenge for companies to design a favourable uncontrolled communication which could influence the stakeholders' trust and commitment towards the organizations. Hypothesis 11, which explains the relationship between uncontrolled communication and loyalty, was found to be significant in the hypothesized direction ( $\beta=-.899$ ,  $t=-3.293$ ). In the hypothesized model,

the effect of trust on loyalty (H13:  $\beta=2.424$ ,  $t=.015$ ) did reach significance. However, the results indicate that there is no relationships between loyalty and commitment ( $\beta=.149$ ,  $t=1.547$   $p=.122>.05$ ). The results show that the hypotheses received a considerable amount of support, 10 out of 14 relationships were statistically significant. The results of the validated structural model are depicted in Figure II.

<<Insert Figure II: The Structural Model>>

### **Findings and Discussion**

This paper contributes to several different research streams. By implicating identity and strategy as key drivers of integrated marketing communications, this research complements that built on consumers' trust, loyalty and commitment. The research's conceptual framework was developed and based on the understanding and application of IMC as synergy in communication, by using multiple modes of communication to send the desired message to the intended audiences and improve consumers' loyalty. The emphasis on identity and strategy enables the marketing managers to precisely and consistently communicate, develop and implement the IMC strategy. The results of this study and our framework can be a useful guideline for managers to create a more synergistic and effective IMC program.

The findings suggest that the elements of identity (guidelines, personality and positioning) have an influence on the strategy of the brand (brand identity has positive impacts on brand's strategy), which leads to a more synergistic and effective controlled and uncontrolled communication program (identity has positive impacts on brand's controlled and uncontrolled communication). From an academic and industry standpoint, the study provides some support for confirming an idea that some marketing and communications practitioners have believed for years: that consumer attitudes towards a brand identity may be enhanced by pursuing a strategy that consistently integrates messages across controlled communication. This research makes a number of contributions to the literature of identity, strategy, communication and IMC. The research is the primary basis that confirms the presence of significant direct effects of both identity and strategy on IMC. This research offers managerial contributions for decision-makers, marketers and graphic designers who wish to understand the whole situation of the relationship between identity, strategy and favourable IMC, and their impact on consumers' trust, loyalty and commitment. Importantly, this study helps consultants and managers to understand whether the company's identity and

strategy communicate an authentic message and the personality of the company to the target audience.

The next findings were based on the relationships between strategy and controlled and uncontrolled communication. The characteristics of strategy include differentiation, social responsibility and governance. Our study found that brand strategy has positive impacts on brand's visual identity/design, website and promotion (controlled communication). However, surprisingly, there was no relationship between brand's strategy and uncontrolled communication and the regression path unexpectedly illustrated a significant negative relationship between these two variables ( $\gamma=-.200$ ,  $t\text{-value}=-1.132$ ). Therefore, Hypothesis 5 was rejected because it was not statistically significant ( $p .258$ ). This unexpected result could be related to the industry type of the case company. For a more critical consideration of the emerging insignificant relationship, the literature and the qualitative data were revisited. The structural model assessment supported the discriminant validity of the research constructs, and established that the constructs measures are truly distinct. The assessed discriminant validity correlations were statistically significant ( $p<.05$ ) (Hair et al., 2006). The estimated correlations among factors were less than the recommended value of 0.92 (Kline, 2005). Since no study has examined IMC in terms of its association to brand/corporate identity and strategy, as the current study has done, no direct comparison with previous research can be made.

Our conceptual framework has many implications for practitioners. The results show that the companies should focus on efforts that define and develop a favourable identity and based on their identity create a strategy to gain momentum. Following this, the managers and employees of the company should focus on communicating that consistent identity and strategy to all controlled communication tools. For instance, the company's visual identity such as its logo should be used consistently in any communication cues such as the company's website. The company should communicate the same message through all their communications to internal and external audiences. The key elements of uncontrolled communication have been identified as tertiary communications which are messages that are imparted about the organization from third parties. Companies have less control over these communication cues which may influence decisions either positively or negatively. Managers should consider wide-ranging plans that assess the strategic roles of a diversity of communication disciplines and combine these disciplines to provide consistency, clarity and maximum communications influence (Schultz and Kitchen, 1997, p.9). In any event, the

findings of this study suggest the need for further research into the reason why a brand's strategy did not appear to correlate with the uncontrolled communications concept.

Specific to integrated marketing communication in the retail industry, the results of this study indicate that as companies have control of their brand's visual identity, website and promotion, the brand's controlled communication has positive impacts on uncontrolled communication. In addition, the results demonstrated that consumers' perception towards controlled communication has positive impacts on their trust, loyalty and commitment. Technology makes integration possible and integrated marketing communication programs need to be adopted by organizations to generate synergy between the different marketing elements in order to attain short and long term relationships with consumers. Managers and practitioners should employ a diversity of communication channels to maintain and enhance their relationships with consumers. In addition, managers should focus on developing relations between the brand and consumers through a component of IMC. In particular, retail communication and managers and sector brands should always rely on the company itself to represent the services and products, as well as consumer perception, which has implications for the company's success.

This article also has focused on the concept of controlled communication, on uncontrolled communication, their implementation, and their relation to trust, loyalty and commitment. The study into past research has demonstrated that while practitioners have indicated that integrated marketing communication is required from organizations, little study has been carried out regarding their consequences to trust, loyalty and commitment, especially in the retail setting.

The next fundamental outcome of this study is that such an IMC program will lead to stronger brand loyalty. The more positive and synergistic are controlled communication (brand's visual identity/design, website and promotion) and uncontrolled communication, the more effective will be the IMC program, resulting in exceptionally superior brand loyalty. Every individual at the company is responsible for the firm's marketing communication efforts. The evidence of this study should be of interest to both proponents and critics of IMC and it is hoped that it will serve as an additional catalyst for further work in this area. There is little doubt that integrated marketing communication is increasingly significant in the twenty-first century. However, the results show that the relationship between the uncontrolled communication and consumers' trust and commitment was not significant; hypothesis 10 (H10:  $\beta = -.344$ ,  $t = -1.710$ ,  $p = .087 > .05$ ) and hypothesis 12 (H12:  $\beta = -.262$ ,  $t = -1.484$ ,

$p=.138>.05$ ) were rejected as they were not significantly different from 0 at the 0.001 level of probability.

With regard to research hypothesis 10 (brand's uncontrolled communication has positive impact on consumers' trust towards the brand), the examination found that there is insignificant relationship between the consumer's attitude towards the brand's uncontrolled communication and their trust towards the brand. This finding is surprising, considering that the literature indicates that uncontrolled communication has an impact on consumers' perception, however, not necessarily an impact on consumers' trust and commitment; it can be a challenge for companies to increase their consumers' trust and commitment with the company and its services. Therefore, managers should pay particular attention to IMC information from the consumers' point of view.

### **Future research**

This study attempts to develop the understanding the role of identity and strategy on integrated marketing communication (IMC) in relation to building trust, loyalty and commitment, although the findings are not without their limitations. This study provides a broad base for further research on IMC, identity, strategy and marketing channel evaluation and effectiveness at a time when this is a key issue for marketing communications.

In future research, the number of channels studied could be extended and there may well be new ones soon. In addition, this study employed multiple constructs and measurement and worked within a retail setting in the UK. Researchers who study retail in the UK could explore these validated and reliable measurements. This research represents a first attempt to conceptualize the favourable IMC and its antecedents and consequences in a retail setting; hence a future study could further develop the concept of IMC in a retail setting taking into account the various stakeholders (e.g. consumers, employees, shareholders and employers). It should also be helpful to consider other modes of services. In this respect, further study should investigate whether the domain of the favourable IMC construct modifies or changes, and how the association in the proposed framework would differ with the type of relationships being investigated. Furthermore, a future study could explore whether the relationships found in this study hold in other countries. This study is the first on the topic of the relationship identity and strategy on integrated marketing communication (IMC) in relation to building trust, loyalty and commitment. It attempts to empirically examine the IMC by using a quantitative approach in order to examine and validate a

conceptual model employing SEM. Given the increased attention on the IMC, the lack of systematic and empirical research on the IMC is alarming.

This study might be examined by conducting exploratory research. Furthermore, replicated study is required in order to gain greater generalisability and validity for the examined measurement and relationships. In addition, the developed and extended scales of the favourable IMC and the related research constructs could be investigated in future research. Future research could replicate the conceptual framework of the present study in another setting. Furthermore, in order to adapt the constructs used in the current conceptual framework for a different research setting, future study should examine the validity and reliability of the constructs of interest. Since some of the findings of this study, such as the direct effect of strategy on uncontrolled communication, were unexpected and could be related to the type of business that the case company belongs to, future study might usefully repeat this research in another sector or country, in order to examine the abstractions of the findings. Furthermore, the relationship between the uncontrolled communication and trust and commitment, were not found to be significant. This could be a long term investigation.

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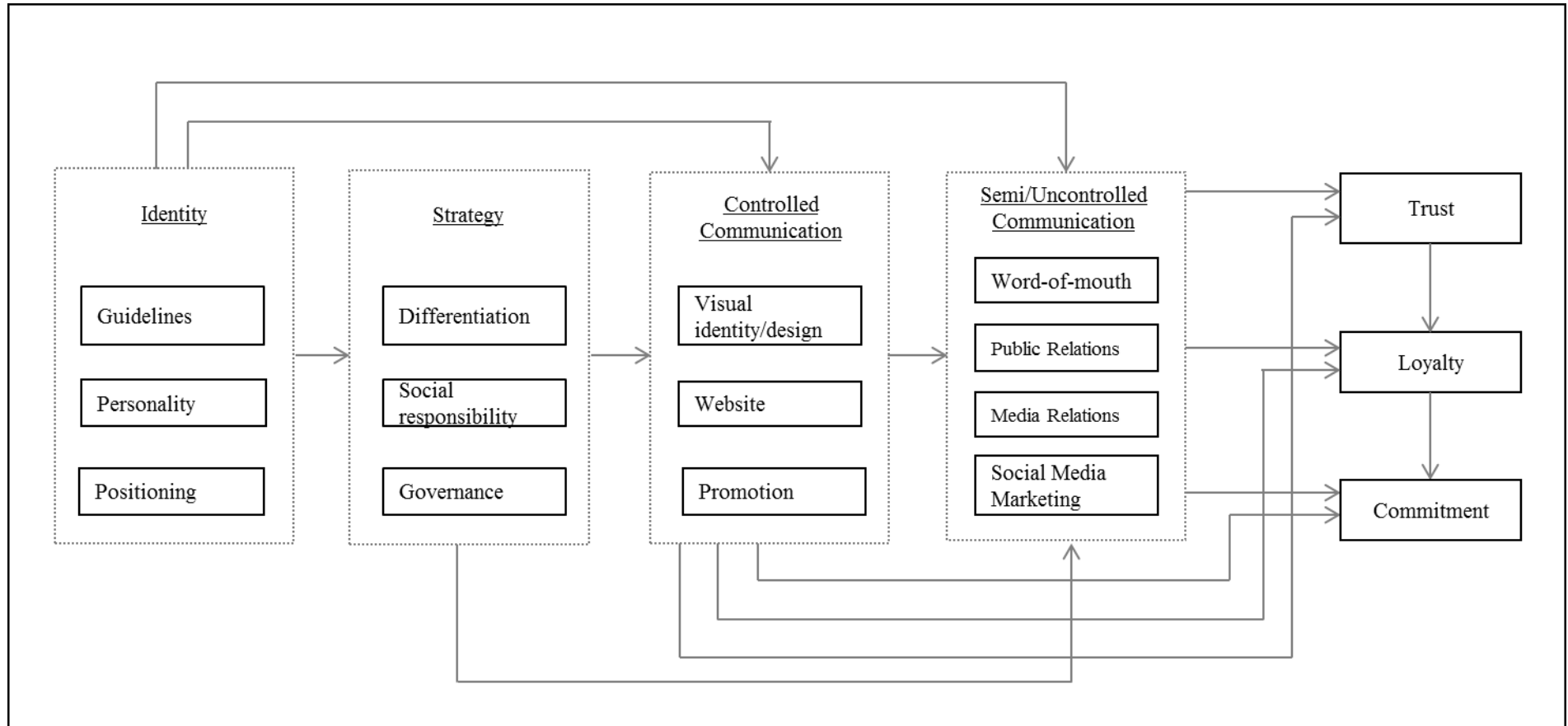
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**Figure I: The Conceptual Framework**



**Table I: Respondents characteristics**

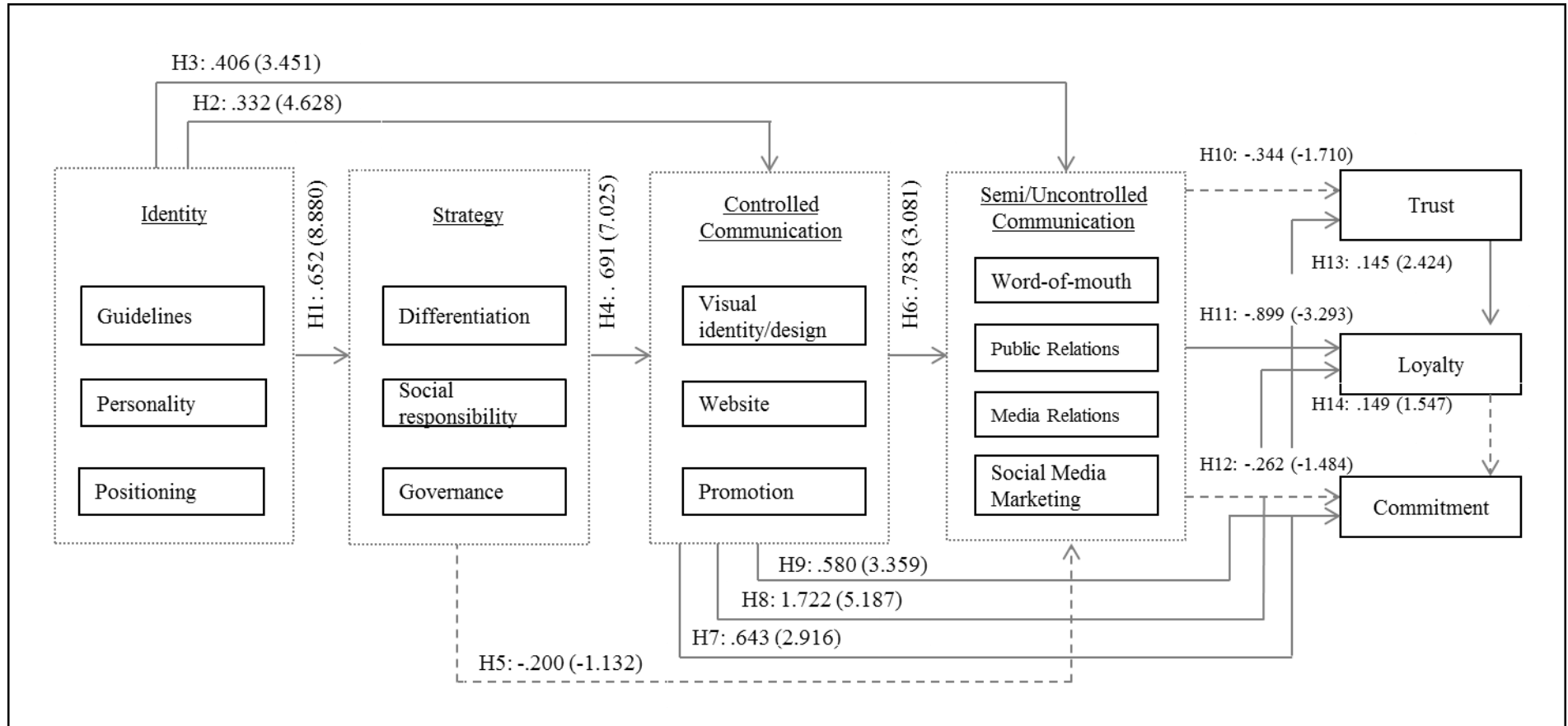
<b>Gender</b>			<b>Age</b>		
Female	242	69.7	19 years old or less	45	13.0
Male	105	30.3	20 to 29 years	96	27.7
<b>Education</b>			30 to 39 years	141	40.6
High school/Some colleges	118	34.0	40 to 49 years	29	8.4
Undergraduate	165	47.6	50 to 59 years	26	7.5
Postgraduate and above	64	18.4	60 years old or more	10	2.9
<b>Occupation</b>			<b>Ethnic groups</b>		
Top executive or manager	8	2.3	English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	60	17.3
Owner of a company	17	4.9	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	65	18.7
Lawyer, dentist or architect etc.	27	7.8	Asian	88	25.4
Office/clerical staffs	35	10.1	Black/African/Caribbean	30	8.6
Worker	5	1.4	Mediterranean	51	14.7
Craftsman	8	2.3	Other ethnic group	53	15.3
Student	155	44.7			
Housewife	35	10.1			
Employee at the store	57	16.4			

**Table II: Hypotheses summary**

HYPOTHESES RELATIONSHIPS				Estimate	S.E	C.R		
H1	Identity	→	Strategy	.652	.073	8.880	***	Accepted
H2	Identity	→	Controlled corporate brand communication	.332	.072	4.628	***	Accepted
H3	Identity	→	Uncontrolled corporate brand communication	.406	.118	3.451	***	Accepted
H4	Strategy	→	Controlled corporate brand communication	.691	.098	7.025	***	Accepted
H5	Strategy	→	Uncontrolled corporate brand communication	-.200	.177	-1.132	.258	Rejected
H6	Controlled corporate brand communication	→	Uncontrolled corporate brand communication	.783	.259	3.018	.003	Accepted
H7	Controlled corporate brand communication	→	Trust	.643	.221	2.916	.004	Accepted
H8	Controlled corporate brand communication	→	Loyalty	1.722	.332	5.187	***	Accepted
H9	Controlled corporate brand communication	→	Commitment	.580	.173	3.359	***	Accepted
H10	Uncontrolled corporate brand communication	→	Trust	-.344	.201	-1.710	.087	Rejected
H11	Uncontrolled corporate brand communication	→	Loyalty	-.899	.273	-3.293	***	Accepted
H12	Uncontrolled corporate brand communication	→	Commitment	-.262	.177	-1.484	.138	Rejected
H13	Trust	→	Loyalty	.145	.060	2.424	.015	Accepted
H14	Loyalty	→	Commitment	.149	.096	1.547	.122	Rejected

\*\*p<0.01, \*p<0.05.

**Figure II: The Structural Model**



## Appendix I: Study constructs and scale items, descriptive statistics, factor loadings and reliabilities

Constructs	Measurement items	Fac. load.	Mean	Std Dev	AVE	Com. Reli	Reference
<b>Identity (CBI)</b>							
<b>Philosophy, Vision, and value (BG) @.971</b>					.673	.892	
	Philosophy	.817	5.4611	1.48229	Baker and Sinkula, 1999; Balmer et al., 2006; Hatch and Schultz, 1997; Simoes et al., 2005		
	Value	.827	5.5043	1.48474			
	Vision	.796	5.5476	1.44251			
	Mission	.842	5.5101	1.46906			
<b>Personality (BP) @.956</b>					.647	.801	
	Sincere	.787	5.3545	1.49701	Aaker, 1997		
	Excited	.809	5.4179	1.49412			
	Competence	.834	5.3055	1.62141			
	Sophistication	.846	5.2709	1.58983			
	Rugged	.740	5.6715	1.46298			
<b>Positioning (BPG) @.966</b>					.563	.803	
	Target market	.782	5.4063	1.47003	Balmer, 2008; Barich and Kotler, 1991; Jewell and Saenger, 2014		
	Competition	.785	5.4236	1.50214			
	Product category	.716	5.4611	1.50166			
	Brand promise	.769	5.4813	1.43715			
<b>Strategy (STR)</b>							
<b>Differentiation (SD) @.931</b>					.548	.747	
	Customer focus	.750	5.5994	1.48336	Kaplan and Norton, 2001; Simoes <i>et al.</i> , 2005		
	Unique selling point	.731	5.7176	1.58417			
	Customer knowledge	.714	5.7637	1.52496			
	Customer satisfaction	.764	5.6081	1.73763			
<b>Social responsibility (SR) @.931</b>					.503	.739	
	Social participation	.718	5.6138	1.43476	Porter and Kramer, 2006		
	Ethical	.703	5.6282	1.46347			
	Honest	.702	5.5793	1.46892			
	Transparent	.714	5.5331	1.65558			
<b>Governance (SG) @.973</b>					.550	.788	
	Policy	.740	5.6916	1.47817	Aghion et al., 1997; Misuraca et al., 2012		
	Procedures	.742	5.7839	1.48479			
	Standards	.758	5.7406	1.48076			
					Haniffa and Cooke, 2002; La Porta et al., 2000;		
					Bauer et al., 2004; Benston, 1982		

Accountability	.713	5.6398	1.52434	Crombie, 2008; Solomon, 2007
Equality	.754	5.6801	1.55394	Aguilera and Jackson, 2003; Pagano and Volpin, 2005
<b>Controlled corporate brand communication (CCC)</b>				
<b>Visual identify/design (CCV) @.946</b>				.571 .751
Logo	.713	5.2305	1.45407	Foroudi et al., 2014
Name	.734	5.1441	1.51752	
Color	.791	5.0432	1.51710	
Design	.783	5.2565	1.49196	
<b>Website (CCW) @.978</b>				.714 .855
Navigation	.854	5.4813	1.54941	Alwi, 2009; Argyriou et al., 2006; Halliburton and Ziegfeld, 2009
Design/layout/appearance	.821	5.4813	1.50973	
Functionality and usability	.816	5.3833	1.47231	
Customization	.858	5.4870	1.53823	
Security	.844	5.5101	1.45919	
Availability	.845	5.3718	1.44958	
Information	.875	5.4841	1.47294	
<b>Promotion (CCP) @.972</b>				.733 .774
Product launches	.855	5.3026	1.64583	Balmer and Gray, 2000 and 2003; Balmer, 2009; Barich and Kotler 1991; Van Riel 1995; Alessandri, 2001
Sponsorships	.847	5.3199	1.67564	
Events	.863	5.2450	1.68140	
Loyalty incentives	.860	5.3343	1.63171	
<b>Uncontrolled corporate brand communication</b>				
<b>Word-of-mouth (UWM) @.951</b>				.633 .761
Consumers	.779	5.3545	1.59062	Balmer and Gray, 2000; Balmer et al., 2011; Balmer, 2001; Christiansen and Tax, 2000; Harrison-Walker, 2001; Lau and Ng, 2001
Suppliers	.802	5.3948	1.61363	
Business customers	.811	5.2968	1.72739	
Investors	.789	5.2882	1.73969	
<b>Public relations (UPR) @.958</b>				.741 .775
Media engagement	.877	5.4957	1.57357	Balmer and Gray, 2000; Balmer, 2008, 2009; Schultz and Kitchen, 1997
Content management	.858	5.6945	1.57805	
Event management	.853	5.5360	1.58598	
Industry awards	.856	5.5879	1.57846	
<b>Media relations (UMR) @.978</b>				.741 .775
Print media	.876	5.3487	1.80142	Henderson, 1998; Spicer, 1993
Electronic media	.858	5.3372	1.79720	Morley and Robins, 2002 Schmitz, 1997
Television	.852	5.3545	1.78092	Giles and Maltby, 2004; Grant et al., 1991; Skumanich and Kintsfather, 1998



	Radio	.856	5.3314	1.82222	Brinson, 2006; Giles and Maltby, 2004
<b>Social media marketing (USM) @.978</b>					.781 .763
	Podcasts	.812	5.4265	1.62074	Hoffman and Fodor, 2010; Michaelidou et al., 2011; Weinberg, 2009
	Blogs	.803	5.4553	1.62180	Melewar, 2003; Weinberg, 2009; Zarrella, 2009
	Social networking websites	.807	5.4582	1.63253	Kim and Stoel, 2004; Weinberg, 2009
	Search engine optimization	.804	5.5101	1.59725	Alden et al., 2011; Castronovo and Huang, 2012; Stelzner, 2011
<b>Trust (CBT) @.936</b>					.781 .779
	Reliability	.880	5.8934	1.34622	Eid, 2011; Giovanis and Athanasopoulou, 2014
	Social consciousness	.912	5.7954	1.46093	Lee and Sirgy, 2004; Sagar and Singla 2004
	Familiarity	.870	5.7147	1.36720	Komiak and Benbasat, 2006; Siau and Shen, 2003
	Identification	.873	5.7118	1.35491	Gounaris, 2005; Keh and Xie, 2009; Martínez and del Bosque, 2013
<b>Loyalty (CBL) @.957</b>					.675 .767
	Experience	.807	5.5706	1.54229	Gefen, 2000; Ponsonby-McCabe and Boyle, 2006
	Credibility	.829	5.5793	1.52680	Alam et al., 2012; Kim et al., 2008; Sweeney and Swait, 2008
	Contemporary	.838	5.5303	1.58427	Soderlund, 2006
	Innovative	.812	5.5533	1.50122	Nguyen et al., 2013; Stock and Zacharias, 2013; Yeh, 2015
<b>Commitment (CBC) @.939</b>					.818 .783
	Brand relevance	.902	5.1527	1.46728	Zhang et al., 2014
	Brand love	.915	5.1729	1.53158	Carroll and Ahuvia, 2006
	Brand dominance	.923	5.1988	1.51608	Aaker and Joachimsthaler, 2012; Lusch and Vargo, 2014
	Brand preference	.877	5.2161	1.48089	Aaker and Joachimsthaler, 2012; Chaudhuri and Holbrook, 2001