My long-term goal is to strengthen connections between the academy and practice. I consider myself as an applied sociologic researcher-practitioner whose research is affected by practice and practice is informed by research.

My research interests can be categorized into two main areas: investigating (1) migration and education; and (2) digital divide and inequality.

Keywords

Migration, Inequality in Education, STEM Secondary Education, Digital skills and Inequality

Examination of Factors Predicting Secondary Students’ Interest in Tertiary STEM Education

Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin, Marina Milner-Bolotin and Sabina Lissitsa
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Based on the Social Cognitive Career Theory, the study aims to investigate factors that predict students’ interest in pursuing STEM fields in tertiary education both in general and in relation to their gender and socio-economic background. The results of the analysis of survey responses of 2458 secondary public school students in the fifth largest Israeli city indicate that STEM learning experience positively associates with students’ interest in pursuing STEM fields in tertiary education as opposed to non-STEM fields. Moreover, studying advanced science courses at the secondary school level decreases (but does not eliminate) the gender gap and eliminates the effect of family background on students’ interest in pursuing STEM fields in the future.

Enrollment in religious schools and the educational achievements of children of high-skill immigrants

Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin and Sabina Lissitsa
Published in: International Migration Review, 2016

Our most important conclusion is that educational achievements of western immigrant students are partly mediated by the type of school they attend. The type of school selected is affected mainly by the affinity of the student's family to religion. On this point, the findings of the study correspond to the segmented assimilation theory. However, while Portes and Rumbaut (2001) maintain that immigrant assimilation in various socio-economic strata of the target society is based on the human capital they bring with them, our findings indicate segmented assimilation on the basis of religiosity as well, in other words, religiosity segmented assimilation.