

Guest Editor's Notes

I am delighted to introduce the fourth issue of *Hagirah* journal, which was established out of collaboration between the Ruppin Academic Center and the Demography and Immigration section of the Israeli Sociology Society. This special issue contains a collection of articles that were presented at the 3rd Ruppin International Conference on Immigration and Social Integration. This two-day conference, which took place at Ruppin Academic Center on May 2014, addressed various topics related to global migration trends over the last 25 years, since the downfall of the Berlin Wall. Following our call-for-papers, we received many articles and decided to publish only those that were presented in the conference and successfully passed a rigorous peer-review process. The nine articles that were chosen at the end of this process included three policy-oriented papers and six papers based on academic research.

This special issue opens up with three policy-oriented papers. The first paper, "A Look Back at Migration Trends over the Past 25 Years," was written by Howard Duncan¹. In his article, Prof. Duncan reviews the outstanding trends of migration over the past 25 years. This is done from the standpoint of managing migration policies, the integration of migrants, and the overall effects of migration on both receiving societies and countries of origin. The article describes the many changes occurring in the world and their expression in the increase of migration and the appearance of new paradigms about integration and naturalization processes.

The second article is titled, "Policy Trends in Migration: Why should Migration Be Central to Public Policy?" and was written by Richard Lewis². Mr. Lewis served in the past as the active head of the Migration and Asylum Unit of the European Commission. In his article, Mr. Lewis draws upon his vast experience in the European Commission to analyze the current migration trends in Europe. His main argument is that in the historical approach there was the mistaken tendency to regard the phenomenon of migration as unique and isolated occurrences. History teaches us that migration has a multi-territorial influence, and it, therefore, needs to be analyzed in light of political events and a broader human context. The article presents the prominent trends of migration in the European framework and examines the question of whether migration can be managed.

The third article, which is also a policy-oriented paper, is titled, "The Contemporary Migration between Human Rights, Freedom of Movement and Right

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to Return" and was written by Dr. Jacque Amar³. In his article, Dr. Amar analyzes contemporary migration movements in the world, in light of migration patterns from over the last few decades. The article reviews and analyzes the concepts of human rights, freedom of movement and right of return. These ideas challenge the accepted balance between the rights of the country and the rights of the individual. The article illustrates the expression of these concepts in different countries, while pinpointing their consequences in migration policies.

The next six articles are based on academic studies, and their findings were presented at the international conference. Israeli researchers wrote the first two articles, which focus on immigrants to Israel from western countries. Dr. Karin Amit⁴ and Dr. Shirliy Bar-Lev⁵ wrote an article titled, "Transnational Identity of French Immigrants Employed in French speaking Companies." Their study examines, using qualitative and quantitative research methods, the implications of this employment pattern on French immigrants' sense of identity and belonging to Israeli society. The study presents the particular cultural identity that the French immigrants developed; an identity that integrates the French-Francophone identity with the religious-Jewish one.

Dr. Svetlana Chachashvili-Bolotin⁶ and Dr. Sabina Lissitsa⁷ wrote the next article, which is titled, "Religious Segmented Assimilation: The Case of Integration of Western Immigrants in the Israeli Secondary Education System." It studies, using data provided by the Ministry of Education, the rates of eligibility for matriculation certificates among three groups of first and second generation immigrants from western countries. The groups consist of English, Spanish, and French-speaking individuals. The findings highlight the differences between the groups. These differences are explained by the segmented assimilation theory.

Prof. Robin Harper⁸ and Dr. Hani Zubida⁹ collaborated in the writing of the next article, titled, "'The Money Magnet' - (Im)Mobility and Asian Temporary Labor Migrants in Israel." The article focuses on the practices used by Asian work migrants in Israel in the transfer of money back to their countries of origin (remittances). The study examines the implications these practices have on the migrants' economic mobility. The study is based on interviews with Asian work migrants in Israel and indicates that while the transfer of finance is an expression of the transnationalism that exists, the migrants themselves remain immobile. Marisa Raditsch¹⁰ wrote the article: "North-South Migration: The Impact of International Immigration in the

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Municipality of Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico," which reviews the socio-economic changes in the Chapala province in Mexico as a result of the international migration of migrants from the United States and Canada. The article is based on interviews with various sources, and presents the positive and negative attitudes towards immigrants from northern countries who migrate to a more traditional province in Mexico.

Dr. Roberta Medda-Windischer¹¹ contributed the article, "Migration and Diversity Management in Traditionally Divided Society: The Case of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen." The article examines the mutual relationships between the traditional, 'old minority' ethnic communities and the 'new' migrant ethnic communities in the autonomous province of Bolzano/Bozen in Italy. The case study of the province is used to review the existing policy towards different ethnic groups; as well as its legal implication within the complex dialogue that exists between the autonomous district and the central government in Italy.

Dr. Ferzana Chaze¹² and Prof. Usha George¹³ contributed the last article, "Learning from Success: Indo-Canadians and the Facilitators of Economic Integration." The paper represents an interesting combination of theory and practice. It presents the findings that emerged from roundtable discussions during a unique two-day conference that focused on the economic integration of Indian immigrants in Canada. Participants in this conference included academic scholars, professionals who work in the field, Indo-Canadians and entrepreneurs. They met to discuss issues pertaining to a successful economic integration of Indians in Canada. The paper analyzes the main messages of this conference in the light of relevant theories, and emphasizes the personal and organizational factors that contribute to economic integration and reduce the systemic barriers, in order to create support systems for this community of immigrants.

The articles in this edition underwent a rigorous peer review process to maintain the high academic level of the *Hagira* journal. I wish to thank the chief editor of the journal, Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, and the associate editor, Prof. Rachel Sharaby, for their close and professional guidance. I wish also to thank our reviewers, who responded to our call and contributed their valuable comments to the academic quality of this special issue. My sincere appreciation is given to Mr. Doron Dgani and Mr. Alex Stotland, the editorial coordinators, for their significant contribution.

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