Abstracts

"Now I am also Israeli": From Illegality to Legality - Life experiences and identities of migrant workers' children after receiving civil status in Israel *

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In 2006 and 2010, following demands from local and international civil society organizations, Israel granted civil status to approximately 1500 undocumented migrant workers' children. This was considered a "one time humanitarian gesture," not to be repeated. Thousands of other children, who did not fulfill the required criteria, were left without civil status. Within the context of Israel, the homeland of the Jewish people, this mixed-methods study explored how the children's life experiences have been constructed and reconstructed since the inception of their new civil status. According to the findings, 80 per cent of migrant workers' children reveal a high degree of belonging to Israeli society, defining themselves as Israelis. For them, receiving civil status has four practical implications: being able to serve in the Israeli army; the ability to travel abroad; better access to the job market; and freedom from fear of deportation. Our study also revealed difficulties due to their religious and ethnic identities, reflected in the children's understandings of what it means to be Israeli. The complex manifestations of their newly acquired civil status is embedded in the concept of "freedom," i.e. to do and to be what they really want to be.

Keywords: children of migrant workers, civil status.

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Mediation and Civil Status among Asylum Seekers in Israel

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This study aims to analyze the dual liminality experienced by asylum-seeking mediators from the African continent who are employed in linguistic and cultural mediation for state institutions and aid organizations serving the asylum-seeking population in Israel. The primary goal of the research is to highlight the role of these mediators and examine the relationship between language and both civil status and imagined civil status. The qualitative findings, based on interviews and mapping, indicate that asylum-seeking mediators exist in a state of dual liminality, arising from both their legal civil status and their professional status. On one hand, they lack permanent status in Israel and are part of a community facing a "legal liminality"; on the other hand, they provide services that are directly or indirectly connected to Israeli institutions and asylum-seeker support organizations. This dual liminality thus creates a unique complexity, allowing mediators to challenge their legal liminality indirectly and to use language as a primary tool to navigate their unsettled civil status while strengthening their professional standing.

Keywords: liminality, asylum seekers, intercultural mediation, community translation, Eritrea

Highly Skilled but Unequally Integrated: Gendered Migration and Labor Outcomes of Arab Israelis in Germany

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This article explores the labor market integration of highly skilled Arab citizens of Israel who have migrated to Germany, with a specific focus on gendered experiences. Drawing on qualitative data from in-depth interviews, this exploratory study examines how intersecting factors such as marital status, caregiving responsibilities, and occupational fields influence Arab Israeli migrants' employment trajectories and satisfaction levels. Rather than offering generalizations, the analysis identifies recurring patterns and interpretive tendencies. The findings suggest notable differences based on gender. While men typically report better occupational and economic outcomes, women, particularly those with caregiving responsibilities, describe constraints that limit their professional advancement. Despite often acquiring better German language skills, some women experience occupational downgrading, part-time employment, and lower income levels. The study also suggests that previous minority status in Israel may shape perceptions of discrimination in Germany, in ways that might differ from migrants arriving from countries where they are the majority. By integrating the concepts of double disadvantage and minority-to-minority migration trajectories, the study provides a nuanced, context-sensitive understanding of how structural conditions and subjective experiences intersect to shape the migration and integration trajectories of highly skilled Arab Israelis in Germany.

Keywords: Arab-Israeli migrants; gender and migration; double disadvantage; high-skilled migration; motives for migration; labor market integration; emigration from Israel; integration in Germany

From Aleppo and Damascus to Buenos Aires: Opportunity Structures and Ethnic Entrepreneurship among Syrian Jews in Perónist Argentina

Silvina Schammah Gesser

This article explores how the first and second generations of Syrian Jewish immigrants navigated the political and economic opportunity structures of mid-twentieth-century Argentina, especially during the Peronist period, to build distinct forms of ethnic enterprises ranging from peddling and later small shops to textile empires. It traces how the Peronist state policies and market transformations shaped the opportunity structure facing Syrian Jews. It also examines how ethnicity, class, kin networks, and transnational resources enabled or constrained their entrepreneurial trajectories. By adopting a historical-ethnographic approach and focusing on three family case studies that illustrate different trajectories of success, failure, and economic survival, this study emphasizes the importance of mixed embeddedness in refining existing models of ethnic economies and opportunity structures, while showing the "minority within minorities" position of Syrian Jews vis-à-vis other migrant groups.

Keywords: Jewish Syrian immigrants, minority within minorities, ethnic entrepreneurship, mixed embeddedness, Peronist Argentina.

Undermining the Jewish father's Authority Immigrant in the United States and its Representation in American Cinema circa a century ago

Yael Ohad-Karny

Migration is a global phenomenon, which has accompanied humanity since the early days of human society. In the last two centuries, migration has increased noticeably and its influence is expanding and increasing. Immigration creates and changes social processes and structures, as well as personal and common identities, and is therefore challenging in the social, civic and identity defining sense for both immigrants and citizens, as the permanent settlers in the destination countries.

The process of immigration and the active assimilation of millions of Jews to the United States from the end of the 19th century, raised significant obstacles for those who wanted to preserve the heritage of their religion, culture and collective memories of community and homeland. Many Jewish fathers continued their conservative patriarchal tradition, which sought to maintain the authoritative position in their family. Since they remained unable to earn a living, thus unable to financially provide for their families, these men soon realized within new economic and cultural context, they must give up their status and power. Their authority was greatly undermined, which had a direct and severe impact on their family functions including religious, culture and educational authority.

In the 1920s and early 1930s, American cinema was popular and profitable, and historians agree that it largely reflected the American social reality among them Jewish society. Within the sub genre- **immigrant films**- in this article I will refer to about 13 of the most well-known -Silent-films, in which the image of the immigrant Jewish father as a 'peddler and scholar' was the most common. This is an image that combines the three stereotypical-traditional images of the Jewish man in Western culture, the image of Eastern European Jewish community as seen by the American Jewish population, and the image of Jewish immigrants in the view of the general American society.

Processes of economic and social undermining in the status of the immigrant Jewish father will be presented in this article, including the loss of the Jewish father's authority in the eyes of his family and community as a result of the immigration from Eastern Europe to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. My research will deal with the representation of the decline of the Jewish father's authority in American immigrant films produced and screened in the 1920s and 1930s, when the findings indicate a partial coherency between reality and its representation in cinema.

Aging in a New Land:
A Narrative Review of Policies, Challenges, and Resources of Older Immigrants

Pnina Dolberg

This narrative review article examines the integration of older immigrants in various host countries, with a particular focus on Israel as a case study. Against the backdrop of global population aging trends and the increasing proportion of older immigrants, the review analyzes the policies, challenges, and resources relevant to this population. The article presents the uniqueness of the Israeli model, characterized by ideological immigration and an open absorption policy, alongside challenges shared with other immigrant-receiving countries. Key difficulties in the integration of older immigrants are explored, including economic, linguistic, health-related, socio-cultural, and family-related challenges. The article emphasizes the need for a multidimensional approach that recognizes both the vulnerabilities and strengths of older immigrants, and proposes policy directions and interventions, including language learning programs, support for occupational and social integration, and adaptation of services to their unique needs as older adults. Finally, the article highlights Israel's potential as a unique case in developing absorption policies for older immigrants, and underscores the need for further research to develop effective strategies for their reception and integration.

Keywords: Older adult migration; Social integration; Absorption policy; Immigrant aging; Resilience in migration; Vulnerabilities and strengths