Abstracts

Ethnic Gaps in Higher Education and Earnings Among Second and Third Generation Jews in Israel

Yinon Cohen, Yitchak Haberfeld, Sigal Alon, Oren Heller and Miri Endeweld

This paper compares ethnic gaps in socioeconomic characteristics between second and third generation Jewish immigrants in Israel. Using administrative data for over one million men and women, 25-43 years old in 2018, the results suggest that the well-documented educational and earnings advantages of Ashkenazim (Jews of European/American origin) over Mizrahim (Jews of Asian/African origin) in the second generation have not narrowed. Indeed, in the case of education, they are even greater in the third generation, especially among men. In both generations, however, ethnic gaps in rates of obtaining an academic degree are smaller among younger birth cohorts, suggesting that the Mizrahi-Ashkenazi gap may have narrowed over time, though not between the second and third generation. With respect to earnings, in both generations Ashkenazim earn more than Mizrahim; the unadjusted gap increases with age, reaching nearly 20% among men aged 43, the oldest age analyzed in this paper. However, this unadjusted earnings advantage for Ashkenazim is entirely due to their advantage in education. Once higher education is controlled for, the earnings of Mizrahim are not lower, and in some cases, are even slightly higher than that of demographically comparable Ashkenazim. Finally, in both generations, those of mixed ethnicity are more similar to Ashkenazim than to Mizrahim with respect to their education and earnings.

Keywords: Third-generation immigrants, educational gaps, earnings gaps, ethnicity, Israel, Second Generation

Family adjustment processes among immigrants from the Former Soviet Union: A longitudinal research

Ludmila Rubinstein, Julia Mirsky and Vered Slonim-Nevo

Immigration is a major life event that affects the lives of individuals and families. This article studies the processes that occur over time in families of immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Israel. The research method is qualitative. The findings are based on a content analysis of 35 semi-structured in-depth interviews with spouses from six immigrant families. The interviews were conducted over seven years between 2001 and 2008, at four points in time. Data analysis reveals that in the first year, improvement occurred in the relationships between family members, but after two years, a stormy period of crises and conflicts began. Although all families experienced crises, they responded in two different ways: preserving the original structure of the family and changing this structure and creating an alternative family system. The findings suggest that family crises in immigration do not occur immediately, but rather between the second and fourth years after immigration. In families where the roles and status of family members change radically after immigration, it is harder to maintain the family balance. However, flexibility is a resilience factor. When the family system is flexible enough to change its role structure, it can successfully cope with crises and adjust. The study may improve the development and implementation of interventions with immigrant families by taking into account the time since their immigration and the nature of the family system.

Keywords: immigration, adjustment, longitudinal research, qualitative research, family system, former Soviet Union.

Sexual Orientation and Anti-Immigrant Sentiment in Western Europe

Ilan James Hogston and Anastasia Gorodzeisky

This paper investigates the attitudes of LGB (lesbian, gay and bisexual) individuals towards immigrants (specifically, perceived threat from the presence of immigrants in a country) and immigration (specifically, opposition to immigration) as attitudes of a minority group - out-group in terms of sexual orientation, towards another minority group - out-group in terms of nativity status. Using ESS survey data, the empirical analysis demonstrates that partnered LGB individuals in Western Europe perceived lower levels of threat from the presence of immigrants in their countries and expressed lower levels of opposition to immigration than partnered heterosexual individuals. The study further develops arguments regarding possible mechanisms underwriting the association between sexual orientation and attitudes towards immigrants and immigration. The findings reveal that perceived group discrimination based on sexuality fully mediated the association between sexual orientation and attitudes towards immigrants. By contrast, political orientation only partially mediated this association.

Key words: anti-immigrant sentiment, perceived threat, opposition to immigration, public opinion, sexual orientation, cultural marginality theory, Europe.

The challenges of the poet Ya'akov Cahan during his immigration to Israel

Ze'ev Miron

What are the difficulties facing an elder intellectual who relocates to a new country? How does he experience the process of social and cultural assimilation? The present study deals with the hardships and challenges facing the poet Ya'acov Cahan during the British Mandate and the first decade of the State of Israel. His case is an example of the assimilation process that older intellectual immigrants of his time often encountered. Cahan arrived in Mandatory Israel at the age of 53, after being known in the Zionist movement in Europe as a poet. He fought to establish Hebrew as the national language, and after immigrating to Eretz-Israel was received warmly by the ruling political party, Mapai. However, Cahan's writings and personal letters reveal the difficulties facing an older immigrant in his efforts to assimilate into a new society and culture. Cahan's writings indicate his feelings of detachment and alienation from the receiving society's way of life. Obviously, these feelings made it difficult for him to become "sabra," a native Israeli, an integral part of the receiving society.

Keywords: Ya'akov Cahan; immigration; Mapai; Histadrut; General Organization of Workers in Israel; older immigrants

Palestinian Emigration to America, 1876–1945: The Push-Factor Effects

Gamal Adawi

Emigration to the New World is not a new demographic phenomenon in the Middle East. By the end of the nineteenth century, people in the region, particularly, Christian Syrian-Lebanese and Palestinians, had already begun immigrating to the Americas. At the basis of this emigration from the region lies a combination of economic, demographic, social, and political push and pull factors. To date, this subject—the push factors of Palestinian emigration to the United States—has not been researched. By and large historians dealing with Syrian emigration during this period have not investigated the push factors promoting it. They have focused mainly on the emigres after their resettlement. Therefore, the goal of this article is to identify the factors that prompted those living in the mountainous areas around Jerusalem such as Bethlehem, Bet Jala, and Ramallah, as well as those in Nazareth, Safed, and the nearby villages of Al-Jish, Fassuta, and Kfar Yassif to emigrate abroad. The main findings of the study show that 1913-14 was the peak year for emigration from Palestine. Initially, it was young people who wanted to create an economic base for themselves in the United States who left, seeking America's economic opportunities. After that, many families followed them. There were a number of economic factors that together prompted this decision: the loss of sources of employment and income, the burden of the heavy taxes imposed by the Ottomans, and policies designed to incentivize peasant farmers to sell their land to major landowners. Other factors included the activity of American missionaries in the region in both the educational and religious fields that raised awareness about life in the United States. In addition, improvements in ships between 1840 and 1920 made travel easier, quicker, safer, and more affordable. Finally, the opening up of American consulates in the region and ticket agencies for steamships made it easier to obtain the necessary travel documents.

Keywords: Emigration, Palestine, America, fellahin, push factors.

Migration and Schizophrenia: A Review of Worldwide and Israeli Studies

Evgeny Knaifel

Epidemiological studies examining the association between migration and schizophrenia can provide important insights into the social risk factors involved in the onset of this severe mental illness. The aim of this article is to present a review of the literature examining the association between migration and schizophrenia and to compare findings from Israel and other Western countries. A narrative literature review from the last two decades (2000-2020) was conducted using the PubMed, PsycInfo and Google Scholar databases. During the review, 64 articles that examined the relationship between migration and schizophrenia worldwide and in Israel were found and analyzed. Findings from studies in Western Europe showed that first- and second-generation immigrants were two-to-three times more at risk of developing schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders than were native-born individuals. The risk was even higher among immigrants from developing countries with visible physical and cultural characteristics differentiating them from the native-born population. Studies conducted in Israel reported that first-generation immigrants had a higher risk of schizophrenia, but this risk decreased in second-generation immigrants. The social defeat/exclusion theory seems to best explain the association between migration and schizophrenia in Israel and other Western countries. Migration policy makers and mental health professionals should be aware of the impact of post-migration social adversities on the increased risk of schizophrenia in Israel, especially for excluded groups such as Ethiopian immigrants. Increased social support and better access to mental health services are essential steps towards minimizing the consequences of this phenomenon.

Keywords: immigration, schizophrenia, psychoses, social defeat/exclusion, Israel, Western countries

A New Methodology for Estimation of International Migration of Israelis at the ICBS

Eilat Cohen-Kastro

Statistics about international migration constitute a principal part of the national statistics of most countries. Important analyses carried out by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) include the definition and estimation of the population of migrating Israelis. Using the results of these analyses the bureau can estimate the size of the population and identify its subgroups, create sampling frames of populations for various surveys, and remove the population of emigrating Israelis from administrative files. In addition, the subject of migrants attracts a great deal of public and academic attention, resulting in strong demand for data and research on the topic. In order to produce the required data while maintaining a high level of statistical quality, the ICBS must produce reliable estimates of Israelis' international migration. To accomplish this goal, it has updated the definitions and types of migration to be included in the international migration statistics. In addition, it has increased the frequency of producing the data to monthly estimates. This methodological essay presents the background and reasons that led to the development of the new methodology for estimating the international migration of Israelis, as well as the new definitions, the sources of data, the limitations of the data, and the resulting new estimates. The new and the current (pre-change) methodologies are compared and the differences between them are analyzed. The findings indicate that the estimates of long-term Israeli emigrants were 2.4 times higher on average and that of returning Israelis 2.7 times higher on average using the new methodology compared to the estimates using the current methodology. In addition, the differences resulting from using the two methodologies in the population estimates and population growth rate are analyzed.

Keywords: Israeli emigrants, international migration, outflow of Israelis, inflow of Israelis, patterns of migration, migration balance, population growth components, ICBS.