

Second-Generation Moroccan Immigrant Women: Self-Transformation for Mobility into the Low Middle Class in Israel

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Abstract

In her life history narrative, Ruth, a 45 year old second-generation Moroccan immigrant woman, described the process of self-transformation she initiated to enter the Israeli low middle class. She acquired an education in a post-secondary, non-academic institution and a semi-profession, a kindergarten teacher's assistant. Ruth reconstructed her feminine gender ethnic norms to include an egalitarian spousal relationship; reformulated her ethnic group's definition of motherhood to resemble her perception of middle-class motherhood, as typified by Ashkenazi middle-class women, and changed the presentation of her body to coincide with her image of Ashkenazi women's bodies. The changes that Ruth, and women like her, undertook reflect the totality of the process of self-transformation into their class position.