

Acculturation of Juvenile Immigrants in Israel and Germany

Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Center for Applied Developmental Science

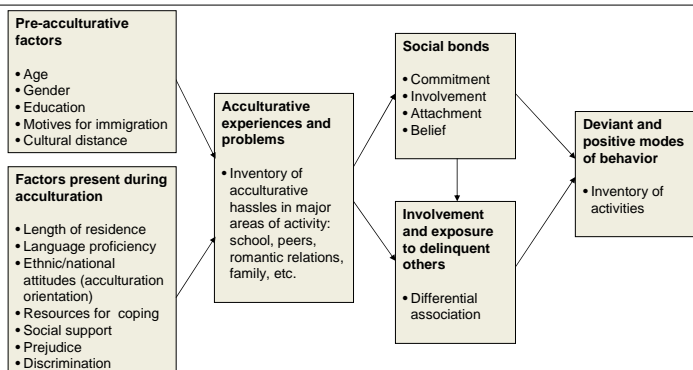


The objective of this study is to investigate the process of acculturation and adjustment of immigrant youth. The study is interdisciplinary reflecting a marriage between micro-sociology and developmental psychology. It attempts to identify the factors that facilitate or disrupt the appropriate adjustment of immigrant youth to the new two host culture countries - Israel and Germany. The focus is on juveniles who immigrated from what was formerly known as the Soviet Union. To study factors that enhance adaptation and adjustment to a new society, a comparative and longitudinal design is being applied.

The first two waves of data collection have been completed in Israel and Germany. A newly developed parent questionnaire will be distributed in the next wave, beginning Fall 2004. First results have already been presented at international conferences. One book chapter and two diploma theses have been written based on the data. At least one more wave is planned.



Model



The model takes factors *prior to*, factors *during* acculturation, and particular experiences of the adolescents into account.

Design

First, as the model describes a process across time, it needs to be longitudinal. Additional cross-sections are made by comparing groups of immigrants who have been residing in the country of destination for different periods of time. Second, acculturation needs to be distinguished from normative, age-related development. Delinquency is known to increase over the course of adolescence, and special care must be given to distinguish between delinquency resulting from acculturative effects and the normative increase in this behavior during adolescence. A special design is applied (Silbereisen, Lantermann & Schmitt-Rodermund, 1999).

Sample

	Israel	Germany
Immigrants	1420	1437
Germans		885
Foreigners		295
Σ	1420	2617

	Israel	Germany
Immigrants		
Age	$M = 15.68$ $SD = 1.77$	$M = 15.93$ $SD = 2.55$
Gender	♀ 46.6% ♂ 53.4%	♀ 54.5% ♂ 44.3%

Sample Publications (German Project Team)

- Schmitt-Rodermund, E. & Silbereisen, R. K. (2008). Well-adapted adolescent ethnic German immigrants in spite of adversity The protective effects of human, social, and financial capital. *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 5, 186-209.
- Schmitt-Rodermund, E. & Silbereisen, R. K. (in press). The prediction of delinquency among immigrant and non-immigrant youth: Unwrapping the package of culture. *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology*.
- Titzmann, P. F., Raabe, T., & Silbereisen, R. K. (2008). Risk and protective factors for delinquency among male adolescent immigrants at different stages of the acculturation process. *International Journal of Psychology*, 19 – 31.
- Titzmann, P. F., Silbereisen, R. K. & Schmitt-Rodermund, E. (2007). Friendship Homophily among Diaspora Migrant Adolescents in Germany and Israel. *European Psychologist*, 12, 181-195.

Project Team:

P.I.: R. K. Silbereisen, E. Schmitt-Rodermund (University of Jena); G. Fishman, Z. Eisikovitz, G. Mesch (University of Haifa)

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German Team: P. Titzmann, M. Lokhande, A. Michel, K. Stöbel (University of Jena)
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