

### **(33) Adaptation of Ethnically Mixed Immigrant Couples from the Former USSR to the Intercultural Transition**

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The research focuses on links between ethnic composition of immigrant couples and their adaptation to intercultural transition. The sample consists of 100 couples: 48 Jewish couples and 52 mixed couples. Three basic groups were compared in the course of the research: Non-Jews from mixed couples, Jews from mixed couples, Jews from Jewish couples.

The following aspects of adaptation were measured: ethnic, cultural and social identity, before and after immigration; the basic strategies of acculturation (separation, integration, assimilation) in various areas; economic adaptation; attitudes toward Israel; sense of well-being; quality of family life before and after immigration. The main results of the research are the following: The ethnic identity of the subjects (as Jewish, Russian, etc.) is essentially different from their cultural identity (Russian, Jewish, or dual) and their social identity (sense of social deprivation). The three research groups have been found very similar: sense of social deprivation was dominant in each of these groups; in each the cultural identity was characterized by the distinct inclination to change the situation to dual-culture; the majority of subjects in each of these groups chose the integration strategy of acculturation; the differences in the level of adaptation to Israel between groups were mainly a function of the time resided in Israel, and did not stem from their ethnic make-up. The ethnic origin of the immigrants did not influence at all the quality of their marital life in the new situation. Patterns of family function are very similar both in mixed couples and in homogenous couples.

*Key words:* immigrants, mixed couple, acculturation, identity