

“Ethnic Schema Typology”: A Bidimensional Model

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ABSTRACT The paper deals with the re-construction and re-formation of ethnic identities during the acculturation process. “Ethnic identity schemata” have been developed to characterize four types of cultural identities among new immigrants from the former Soviet Union to Israel, who clearly differ from most segments of Israeli society, culturally and demographically. A random sample has been interviewed. The study has been conducted in a small Jewish town in Israel, inhabited by Israeli-born Jews and Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. “Ethnic schema typology” identified four groups, namely, Russian (Soviet) identity, Israeli identity, Dual/Hybrid identity combining Russian and Israeli identities, and “undifferentiated” identity. Effects of language acquisition, language usage outside the home, Jewish religious identity, cultural practices, and sense of place were all related to “ethnic schema typology”. Profiles of the four groups have been explored on the basis of their common and particular characteristics.