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Summary of Activities and Future Plans

My academic career has been shaped by a sustained commitment to understanding society through the lens of migration. Migration is a transformative force capable of reproducing, reshaping, and creating social identities, institutions, and structures of opportunity and constraint. The focus of my research is exploring the intersection of migration and social stratification, with an emphasis on how diverse migrant groups navigate the educational system and the labor market. I am especially drawn to outlier trajectories (e.g., excellence and dropout) and exceptional circumstances (e.g., migration, displacement, and war). These serve as litmus tests, which reveal broader societal processes and illuminate the mechanisms through which inequality is both reinforced and challenged. After the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the post–October 7, 2023 wartime reality, my research has expanded to include migration in the context of war, investigating how extreme conditions reshape transnational ties and alter pathways of incorporation.

As an academic researcher, I am passionate about achieving academic excellence, mentoring the next generation of scholars, and advancing applied research. Currently, I have been awarded the *ISF*, *BSF*, and *NSF* grants. My work involves mixed-methods research, drawing on both advanced statistical tools and in-depth qualitative analysis. Below, I outline my work.

(1) Migration under Conditions of War and Conflict

War is one of the most profound disruptions to everyday life, even when it unfolds at a distance. It stretches the boundaries, meanings, and intensity of social processes to their limits. In 2023–2024, I conducted a study examining the impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War on identity shifts among highly educated women born in Ukraine who have spent most of their adult lives in Israel¹. The research revealed complex and layered identity negotiations shaped by past migration experiences.

¹ **Chachashvili-Bolotin, S.** (2024). The Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the Strengthening Of Ukrainian Identity Among Former Soviet Union Immigrants From Ukraine: Israel as a Case Study. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 56-70 [Q1 in Sociology; IF=2.6].

The October 7th 2023 Hamas massacre further underscored how disruptive war is to migrant populations. Two weeks after the Hamas attack, Dr. Talmi-Cohn and I published a series of position papers addressing the needs of migrants who had fled war in their country of origin, only to encounter another war in Israel. We coined the concept of “*double war*”—the unique experience of migrants exposed to warfare both in their country of origin and in the host country, within a transnational and highly digitized environment.

These findings laid the foundation for a new research agenda, supported by a 2024 ISF grant (with Dr. Talmi-Cohn). We examined how overlapping wars reshape migrants’ early incorporation trajectories, social ties, and the construction of social fear. Moreover, we introduced and examined a new notion of a “*conceived third country*”—not as a planned destination, but as a perceived and emotionally enabling refuge. Our findings explore how migrants construct, maintain, alter, or withdraw from social ties across a geo-social triangle: the country of origin, the host country, and third countries. By analyzing these dynamics, this research sheds light on how double war reshapes the meaning and structure of social ties in transnational contexts. Our findings were published in 2026 in two leading journals in the field².

My colleagues and I were awarded a United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation (**BSF**) grant in 2025. In this current project, we expand our concept of “double war” by distinguishing between the effects of migrant and non-migrant double war context. Specifically, we focus on two groups. The first group includes immigrants from Ukraine and Ethiopia, who have experienced conflict in their home countries and later resettled in Israel. The second group includes non-migrants in Ukraine and Ethiopia who remain in their countries of origin, while their relatives and family members have migrated to Israel. These two groups experience the “migrant/non-migrant double war” effect. In this research, we examine whether and how their experiences differ, focusing on how they sustain their transnational ties under conditions of double war, maintain cross-border relationships, and redefine the meaning of “home” under such complex realities.

² **Chachashvili-Bolotin, S., & Talmi-Cohn, R.** (2026). Migrants' calibration of social ties under double war: Relational dynamics and network reconfiguration. *International Migration*, 64(2), e70141. <https://doi.org/10.1111/imig.70141>. [Q1 in Demography; IF=2.3]. *Equal authorship*.

Talmi-Cohn, R., & **Chachashvili-Bolotin, S.** (2026). Migration under double war: Transnational perspectives and the role of a conceived third country. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2026.2629013>. [Q1 in Demography, Medicine; IF=4.3]. *Equal authorship*.

In sum, analyzing migration processes under conditions of “double war” offers a unique theoretical lens to broader societal dynamics, revealing how conflict reshapes not only migrants’ experiences, but also the social structure, symbolic boundaries, and meanings of society itself.

(2) Migration and Inequality in Education and the Labour Market across Different Contexts

My research career began with examining migrant incorporation, among both first- and second-generation immigrants, within the educational system and the labour market.

In the context of education, I examined excellence, dropout, and inequality in secondary and tertiary education, with a particular emphasis on STEM fields as pathways to upward mobility. I was among the first researchers who focused on both first- and second-generation migrant students. My work examined both highly skilled immigrant groups, such as those from the Former Soviet Union and Western countries, and disadvantaged groups, such as immigrants from Ethiopia. I was among the first to investigate educational inequality in STEM fields among different immigrant groups in Israel.

My colleagues and I have conducted five large-scale projects and published the findings in leading journals. My studies have examined between-group differences in science-track achievement, hidden dropout patterns, intergenerational mobility in STEM, and the effects of heritage bilingualism on educational outcomes.³ Together with my former Ph.D. student, Revital Duek and Prof. Ronit Kark, we investigated gender and spatial (center-periphery) inequality in STEM⁴. With respect to education, my future research will continue to examine immigrant educational trajectories, particularly in the context of war.

In the labour market context, I focus on highly skilled immigrants and/or those who attain elite positions. In collaboration with Dr. Talmi-Cohn, we examined the career

³ **Chachashvili-Bolotin, S.**, Milner-Bolotin, M., & Lissitsa, S. (2016). Examination of Factors Predicting Secondary Students’ Interest in Tertiary STEM Education. *International Journal of Science Education*, 38(3), 366-390. [Q1 in Education; IF=2.4].

Chachashvili-Bolotin, S., Lissitsa, S., & Milner-Bolotin, M. (2019). STEM Outcomes of Second-Generation Immigrant Students with High-Skilled Parental Backgrounds. *International Journal of Science Education*, 17(4), 2465-2483.

Chachashvili-Bolotin, S., Blank, C., & Sever, R. (2023). "Absent Attendees": High School Hidden Dropouts Among Immigrant Students With High-Skilled Parent Backgrounds. *Hagira (Hebrew)*, 14, 1-15.

Chachashvili-Bolotin, S., & Kreiner, H. (2022). Heritage-Bilingualism and Educational Achievement among Second-Generation Immigrants: Are All School Subjects Equal? *Learning and Individual Differences*, 1-13 [Q1 in Education; IF=3.9].

⁴ Duek, R., Kark, R., & **Chachashvili-Bolotin, S.** (2025). "Macho or Nerd: Perceptions of Masculinity, Social Environment, and Science Capital Utilization Among Adolescent STEM Students". *Sex Roles*, 91, 30 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-025-01569-3>. [Q1 in Gender Studies, Social Psychology; IF=4.9].

trajectories of Israeli-Ethiopian men in senior workforce roles⁵. Together with Prof. Temkina, we investigated the local and transnational occupational practices of migrant doctors who moved to Israel from Russia, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine; this work was published in 2025 in *Social Science & Medicine*⁶. This research laid the foundation for a 2025–2027 **NSF-BSF project**. The project is being conducted by an international team including Prof. Gerber, examining how war-related migration shapes the professional, national, and civic identities and networks of migrant doctors. I am also currently conducting a comparative study on the professional embeddedness and incorporation of migrant doctors in Kazakhstan and Israel.

As Head of the Institute for Immigration and Social Integration (IISI), I launched and oversaw the *Annual Migration, Aliyah, and Relocation Index* since 2022. This initiative assesses public attitudes toward Aliyah policies and the integration of Olim into Israeli society, focusing on the education system and labor market. The Index findings have been widely presented at academic conferences, media and have attracted significant attention from professional institutions, such as the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). Building on this success, the CBS signed a formal agreement with the IISI to develop a new multidimensional index for assessing immigrant integration in Israel.

My future research, supported by the ISF and NSF-BSF grants, will continue to examine professional embeddedness and labour market incorporation in comparative and transnational contexts.

Professional Vision

My long-term vision is to establish a world-leading interdisciplinary academic Center for Migration, Aliyah, and Migration Policy—an internationally recognized academic hub that will bring together leading scholars from around the world, graduate students from diverse disciplines, policymakers, and practitioners. This center will advance cutting-edge research on migration, incorporation, inequality, war-related migration, and transnationalism, while also shaping evidence-based policy and public debate in Israel and globally.

⁵ Talmi-Cohn, R., & Chachashvili-Bolotin, S. (2024). "'I was always told to fit in, but never to excel.': Men's Post Migration Practices of Success in the Public Sector". *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 1-24. [Q1 in Cultural Studies; IF=1.8]. *Equal authorship*.

⁶ Temkina, A., & Chachashvili-Bolotin, S. (2025). "I continue to consult remotely": The trans/national practices of war-related migrant doctors in Israel and professional boundaries. *Social Science & Medicine*, 118154. [Q1 in History and Philosophy of Science, Health, Medicine; IF=5.3].