



Immigration Motivation, Determination, and Success of US Immigrants in Israel: A Mediation Model

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Abstract

Immigration entails many challenges for families, particularly for children. The study was designed to assess pre- and post-immigration measures that contribute to successful and adaptive immigration of families. Participants included 122 recent Jewish US immigrant families to Israel. Measures included predictor indices of immigration motivation, outcome measures of perceived immigration success, and post-immigration process factors including immigration determination and parental social integration. Immigration motivation driven by religious factors was found to be positively associated with immigration determination, perceived immigration success, and parental social integration. Furthermore, the relationship between pre-immigration religious motivation factors and immigration success was found to be mediated by immigration determination. Results highlight the process by which religious immigration motivation positively impacts immigration success for families. Findings have both research and applied implications in the identification of clear immigration difficulty risk factors and the development of guidelines for families, schools, and agencies working on maximizing immigration success.

Keywords Immigration · Religion · Motivation · Adjustment · Israel

Introduction

Immigration entails many situational, emotional, and psychological challenges for families (Atzaba-Poria et al. 2004; Chen et al. 2008; Ferrari et al. 2019; Hyunh et al. 2018; Nguyen and Benet-Martinez 2012; Santiago et al. 2018; Smith and Khawaja 2011; Solheim et al. 2022; Tikhonov et al. 2019; Tong 2014; Yoon et al. 2023). Beyond the disruption to family life brought about by moving to a new location, adjusting to a new country often involves changes in family connections, social

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capital, culture, language, local customs, and financial circumstances (Bao and Greder 2023; Munroe-Blum et al. 1989; Vazsonyi et al. 2006).

However, research on immigration has highlighted much inter-family variability in adjustment post-immigration (Berry et al. 2006; Garcia-Coll et al. 1996). Many pre- and post-immigration measures have been identified as influencing outcomes after immigration including the psychological, social, familial, and economic (Becker 1993; Berry et al. 2006). For example, children of parents scoring higher on psychological well-being, optimism, social connectedness, parent–child relationship warmth, marital satisfaction, and financial security reported greater adaptation after immigration compared with children whose parents were lacking these resources (Nguyen et al. 2011; Yoshikawa and Way 2008).

Beyond individual and family characteristics, other ecological and situational factors may also impact post-immigration adaptation. For example, Borjas (1992, 1994, 1995) found that family post-immigration adjustment was a function of similarities in economic, social, and political characteristics between the country of origin and the host country. Furthermore, immigrating to a country with a similar language and comparable cultural norms has also been found to improve post-immigration adjustment (Berry et al. 2006; McDonald and Worswick 1999).

Immigration Motivation

Of particular interest for the present study is the association between immigration motivation and family adjustment post-immigration. Studies on immigration have differentiated between two primary categories of immigration motivation (Kunz 1973). Immigration may be motivated by push factors, which are negative factors present in the country of origin compelling the individual or family to seek a better life in a new country. Immigration is also motivated by pull factors, which are attractive features found in the host country that are appealing to the immigrating individual or family (Ward et al. 2001).

Push and pull factors can entail economic, political, social, cultural, and familial features. For example, push factors may include high unemployment rates, poverty, low wages, war, political upheaval, government corruption, inferior education, lack of quality health care, human rights abuses, and discrimination in the country of origin. Push factors may also include family-specific motivations including family stressors and situational forces (Milevsky 2016; Mohamed and Abdul-Talib 2020). Likewise, pull factors may entail superior economic prospects, greater freedom, safety, security and order, more accessible educational opportunities, family reunification, and enhanced opportunities for the expression of ethnic identity in the host country (Abdou 2020).

What is less clear from the existing literature on immigration motivation is the way in which these pull versus push factors impact family immigration success. Hence, the first aim of the current study was to assess how immigration motivation impacts long-term perceived immigration success.

Although the push/pull framework offers a parsimonious model for understanding immigration motivation, some have suggested that this dichotomy may be too

simplistic. For example, Pernice et al. (2009) argue that in some instances, immigration motivation may include both features. Furthermore, although there is some indication that immigration motivation may be associated with long-term immigration adjustment (Hagelskamp et al. 2010), studies have not focused on the process by which immigration motivation pre-immigration relates to post-immigration success. More specifically, in what way does pre-immigration motivation, particularly religious motivations, impact the perception of immigration success of immigrants in the long-term? As a result, a second aim of the current study was to assess the underlying process that may link immigration motivation and self-perceived immigration success over time.

A third, and more focused, aim of the current study was to assess the process underlying the link between immigration motivation and self-perceived immigration success in US immigrants to Israel, a population which has been largely neglected in immigration studies.

US Immigration to Israel

The process of immigrating to Israel is commonly referred to as making *aliyah*, or ascension in Hebrew, referencing biblical and religious beliefs in the elevated status of Israel. Considering the increasing numbers of immigrants to Israel over the past few decades (DellaPergola 2022), a small and emergent area of interdisciplinary research has examined various aspects of the Israel immigration process and experience including studies on transition, immigration motivation, acculturation, transnationalism, and migration generation (Sigad and Eisikovits 2010, 2013; Smootha 2008; Walsh et al. 2010).

The limited work on immigration to Israel primarily focuses on immigrants from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and from Ethiopia. The focus on these populations is understood, considering that between 1989 and 2002 more than 1.5 million Jews and their relatives emigrated to countries outside of the FSU, with 62% moving to Israel (Tolts 2003). The Ethiopian immigration to Israel is estimated to total 75,000 (Kaplan and Salamon 2004). Studies on these populations point to various academic, social, and emotional difficulties experienced by immigrants to Israel (Kahan-Strawczynski et al. 2010; Romi and Simcha 2009; Walsh et al. 2010).

However, over the past several decades Israel has experienced a consistent stream of immigrants from the USA. Between 2004 and 2014 an annual average of 2,200 Americans immigrated to Israel (Waxman 2014). At its peak, during the late 1960s and early 1970s, US immigration to Israel averaged 6400 Americans annually. This anomaly has been attributed to the coalescing of numerous unique historical conditions at that time, including Jewish euphoria after the 1967 Six Day War and the sociocultural turmoil that existed in the USA (Waxman 1995a). Examining current immigration trends in comparison with tendencies throughout modern Israel's existence indicates that US immigration to Israel is growing (DellaPergola 2022).

The experience of North American immigrants to Israel differs in considerable ways from the experience of other immigrants to Israel (Kahan-Strawczynski et al. 2010). First, US immigration to Israel is usually driven by pull factors, as opposed

to push factors. Choosing to leave the relative comfort of an American lifestyle in favor of immigration to Israel is driven by the religious or cultural appeal of living in Israel (Waxman 1995b). This active choice is in stark contrast to many other non-western groups of immigrants who immigrate to Israel in response to being pushed out of their country of origin for various geopolitical, safety, or economic reasons.

Of particular interest of this study are the religious components of the pull factor in the decision to immigrate to Israel. Considering past research suggesting that religious motivating factors were a significant and positive determinant of immigration adjustment (Amit and Riss 2014), the current study assesses the religious elements of immigration motivation and the process that may explain the link. This element is particularly interesting considering the disproportionate number of Orthodox Jews moving to Israel in comparison with American Jews of other denominations and none. About 10% of American Jewry identifies as Orthodox (Pew 2021), whereas it was estimated around a decade ago that among US Jews moving to Israel, 80% are Orthodox (Bayme 2012).

An additional, unique dimension of US immigration to Israel is the “Americanization” of Israel and its society. From language to commerce to entertainment, the influence of American society can be seen throughout Israeli society. As Rebhun and Waxman (2000) noted, “Israelis often appear to be more American than Americans” (p. 85). This immersion in American culture is enhanced further for American immigrants, considering that they often choose to live in Anglo communities. Hence, living in communities with large US immigrant populations, within a country that is highly Americanized, results in both positive and negative outcomes for immigrants from the US (Milevsky 2016). For example, integration within immigrant communities may offer the benefit of social support. However, integration into the broader Israeli society, with both identity and language acquisition consequences, may be a challenge. These inimitable characteristics of immigration from the US necessitate a careful examination of the unique immigration adjustment features of US immigrants to Israel.

The Current Study and the Model of Conceptual Framework: The STAR Project Aliyah Continuum Framework

The *Successful Transition after Aliyah Relocation (STAR) Project Aliyah Continuum Framework* was developed to conceptualize and guide this study. As Fig. 1 illustrates, the study was designed to identify pre- and post-immigration variables that contribute to perceived immigration success, long term. This study aims to add to the growing body of research on the process of successful immigration, including both pre-immigration and post-immigration factors that interact to contribute to family perceived immigration success, long term.

Immigration success can be defined and assessed using a variety of post-immigration outcomes including psychological, familial, school, and occupational constructs (Benish-Weisman and Shye 2011). The limitation in using these outcomes is that they do not tell us about the manner in which the participant perceives their immigration as successful. Using these common adjustment measures set the definition of

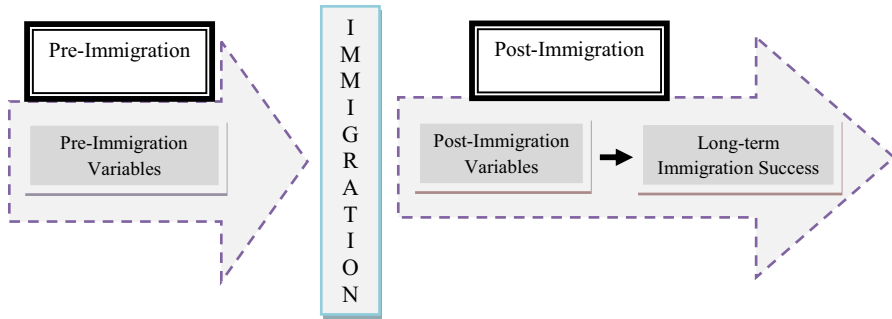


Fig. 1 Model of conceptual framework: The STAR Project *Aliyah Continuum Framework*

adjustment a priori, applying the researcher's perspective without considering what the participant views as success. As Benish-Weisman and Shye (2011) note, "The researcher's definition of good immigration outcomes might not agree with those of the individual immigrants themselves" (p. 462). The current study seeks to examine immigration success using a more holistic approach. Hence, of particular interest in the current study is the manner in which participants experienced their immigration as a success.

The primary research questions guiding this study were, (1) in what way do individual religious pull factors versus push factors in the decision to immigrate contribute to post-immigration perceived success for families, and (2) what is the process by which immigration motivation impacts post-immigration family perceived success? As noted, the current study endeavored to examine these questions particularly in a sample of US immigrants to Israel, considering the unique features of this immigrant group and the scarcity of studies assessing immigration outcomes in this population.

The current study assessed the manner in which immigration motivation impacted parental post-immigration attitudes and behaviors and how these attitudes and behaviors, in turn, impacted perceived immigration success. Considering studies that highlight the importance of early and continuous attitudinal and social efforts and involvement for immigration success (Zhang et al. 2019), this study was particularly focused on assessing the way attitudes relating to immigration determination and behaviors relating to social integration post-immigration impacted long-term perceived immigration success.

More specifically, the study evaluated whether the relationship between religious motivation and perceived immigration success may be mediated by the continued resolve to life in Israel post-immigration permanently. Furthermore, efforts at social integration post-immigration may be an additional process by which immigrants activate a determination to live in Israel resulting in immigration success. Social integration and immigration success are particularly interesting in the case of US immigrants in Israel. As noted in the seminal work of Berry (1997) on acculturation, immigrants have been shown to utilize several integration strategies. In assimilation, immigrants embrace the new culture and relinquish ties with

their culture of origin. Separation occurs when immigrants detach from their new culture and retain a robust connection with their culture of origin. Immigrants who integrate are those who are able to combine elements of both their new culture and their culture of origin, resulting in a well-adjusted immigration experience. Finally, marginalization is when immigrants reject both their new culture and their culture of origin.

Using Berry's model, the "Americanization" of Israel and its society is an important factor to consider when examining immigration success of US immigrants in Israel. The pervasive influence, and high status, of American society throughout Israel may make it easier for US immigrants to integrate their sense of identity and develop a sense of belonging and transnationalism (Sigad and Eisikovits 2010). On the contrary, the American influence may also feed a detachment from the new Israeli culture, leading to a sense of separation. In fact, Kahan-Strawczynski et al. (2010) found that in comparison with teen immigrants to Israel from other countries, those immigrating from the USA were less likely to have proficiency in Hebrew. The adverse consequences of transnationalism can also be seen in the ambivalence reported by US immigrants to Israel about staying in Israel. In fact, between 40% and 60% of US immigrants to Israel eventually return to reside in the USA (Sigad and Eisikovits 2010). The difference between adaptive and maladaptive integration and transnationalism may lie in an immigrant's ability to facilitate their integration through social connections and networks (Repke and Benet-Martinez 2019).

Hence, the current study examined the process of immigration, religious motivation, and success, and the manner in which immigration determination and social integration may mediate the relationship between motivation and success, in a sample of US immigrants to Israel, a population with limited empirical focus.

Methodology

Sample

The study sample included 122 Jewish participants (mean age 45.48 years, SD 7.05), who immigrated to Israel from the USA between 3 years and 10 years prior to the study (M 6.08, SD 2.27). A total of 65 mothers and 57 fathers completed the survey. Participants were married for an average of 19.52 years (SD 6.19) and had an average of 4.34 children (SD 1.57). In terms of level of education, 9% had a high school degree, 32% had a bachelor's degree, and 59% had a postgraduate degree. Overall, the sample was financially secure, with close to 70% of the participants responding to the question, "How often do you have problems paying for things that you really need, such as food, clothing, or rent?" with "never" or "very little." In addition to responding to items about themselves, participants responded to a few basic questions about one of their elementary-school-aged children. Data were also collected about participants' oldest child (58 girls and 64 boys). At the time of *aliyah*, the chosen child was on average 8.57 years old (SD 2.54). Participants resided across Israel in cities with differing numbers of US immigrants.

Procedure

The 3–10-year timeframe was predetermined to gauge both the immigration process and long-term adaptation. Furthermore, a predetermined criterion included a focus on intact families, as issues of divorce and remarriage may cloud the current study's focus on immigration adjustment (Chen et al. 2022). The participants were recruited by research assistants through email lists and online postings of organizations working with the US immigrant populations. Furthermore, several organizations catering to US immigrants in Israel agreed to distribute the survey to their contact lists. Participation was done via online questionnaires.

Measures

In addition to several demographic items, measures included immigration motivation, immigration success, determination to immigration, and parental social integration. The variables are now briefly explained:

Immigration Motivation

To assess factors in the decision to move to Israel, a list of eight items was generated on the basis of past research on immigration motivation in general and a qualitative pilot study on immigration motivations of new US immigrants to Israel (Milevsky 2016). Participants were asked “For each reason please indicate how much this reason applied to why you decided to make *aliyah*.” Responses were recorded on a 5-point Likert style scale from “strongly disagree that this was a reason we made *aliyah*” to “strongly agree that this was a reason we made *aliyah*.” A religious motivation scale (three items, $\alpha = 0.71$) as the incentive for immigration included the belief that Israel is the best place to live a full religious life, seeing the future of the Jewish people in Israel, and the Biblical commandment of living in Israel. A push factor scale (five items, $\alpha = 0.75$), included societal and family specific factors including financial difficulties, marriage difficulties, child school difficulties, general life difficulties, and experience with antisemitism. Immigration motivation is conceptualized as the independent variable in this analysis.

Immigration success

To assess self-perception of general immigration adjustment, the Success in Immigration Questionnaire (Benish-Weisman and Shye 2011) was used. This measure contains four questions designed to assess subjective feelings of immigration success: “To what extent do you experience your immigration as successful?” (1, “very unsuccessful” to 5, “very successful”), “To what extent do you experience your immigration as successful compared with others?” (1, “my immigration experience was very unsuccessful compared with others” to 5, “my immigration experience was very successful compared with others”), and “Was your immigration experience

successful?” with a binary response of 1, yes and -1 , no. The answer to this third item was then multiplied by the level of certainty the participant felt in responding to the item on a five-point scale. Hence, the third item produced scores that ranged from -5 , “certainly unsuccessful” to $+5$, “certainly successful.” The fourth item asked, “Many immigrants feel that their immigration experience was unsuccessful. To what extent do you feel the same?” with responses ranging from 1, “not at all” to 5, “very much.” Higher scores indicate greater subjective immigration success ($\alpha=0.77$). Immigration success is conceptualized as the dependent variable in this analysis.

Determination to Immigration

Continued resolve to live in Israel post-immigration was measured with a one-item measure asking participants, “How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: There is a likelihood that we may move back to the USA,” (1, “strongly agree” to 5, “strongly disagree”). Higher scores on the item served as a proxy for greater determination and perseverance to continue to live in Israel. Determination to immigration is conceptualized as a mediating variable in this analysis.

Parent Social Integration

The degree to which participants integrated socially post-immigration was assessed using The Reliable Alliance (“There are people I can count on in an emergency” and “There are people I know who will help me if I really need it”) and The Social Integration (“I am with a group of people who think the same way I do about things” and “There are people who like the same social activities I do”) subscales of the Social Provisions Scale (SPS) (Cutrona and Russell 1987; Perera 2016). This eight-item measure (four for each subscale) is scored on a 5-point Likert-style scale ranging from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (agree) with higher scores indicating greater reliable alliance or social integration (α for the reliable alliance subscale = 0.89, and for the social integration subscale = 0.91). Parent social integration is conceptualized as a mediating variable in this analysis.

Raw scores of religious pull factors, parental social integration, and immigration success were not normally distributed, possibly due to sample size. Therefore, raw scores were normalized using the two-step approach for transforming non-normally distributed continuous variables to normally distributed variables (Templeton 2011). Raw observations were converted into a percentile rank resulting in uniformly distributed probabilities. Then an inverse-normal transformation was applied to the results to form a variable consisting of normally distributed z -scores.

Descriptive statistics of the study variables will be presented, including skewness and kurtosis (as measures of the form of distribution) as well as correlations between the study variables (including the gender and age of child at immigration). A mediation model will be presented using Hayes PROCESS macro for SPSS-25 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA), model 4 (Hayes 2017). This model uses regression models to examine paths a (the paths that express the associations of the independent variable with the mediators), paths b (the associations of the mediators with

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics

	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Skewness	Kurtosis
Age of child at immigration	8.56	2.55	-0.31	-0.37
Religious pull factors	4.21	0.74	-0.33	-0.66
Commitment to immigration	4.36	0.65	-0.84	-0.31
Parental social integration	3.99	0.88	-0.22	-0.63
Immigration success	3.99	1.01	-0.11	-0.52

All study variables were normalized, with the exception of a commitment to immigration, as explained in the results section.

Table 2 Correlations between study variables

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Age of child at immigration	–					
Child gender	-0.05	–				
Religious pull factors	0.13	0.00	–			
Commitment to immigration	0.17	0.02	0.52**	–		
Parental social integration	0.08	-0.05	0.16*	0.23**	–	
Immigration success	0.00	0.07	0.28**	0.44**	0.29**	–

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

the dependent variable) and paths c' (the direct effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable, which represents the path from the independent variable to the dependent variable when the mediator variable is controlled). In a final step, the significance of the indirect effects ($a \times b$) is examined using 5000 bootstrapped samples to estimate the 95% bias-corrected and accelerated confidence intervals (CI) of the indirect effects, for each mediator separately (as well as whether the two indirect effects are significantly different from each other).

Results

Descriptive results indicated that the strongest motivations for immigration of the current sample were religious factors. The three top reasons for immigration were “the future of the Jewish people is in Israel” (4.37), “Israel is the best place to live a full religious life” (4.34), and “Zionistic reasons” (4.03), on a 5- point scale.

Preliminary Analysis

Table 1 presents means and standard deviations as well as skewness and kurtosis for the quantitative variables. Table 2 presents the correlations between variables. Consistent with the study hypothesis, religious pull factors were positively associated with immigration success ($r = 0.28$). Religious pull factors (the independent variable) were positively associated with the two mediating variables:

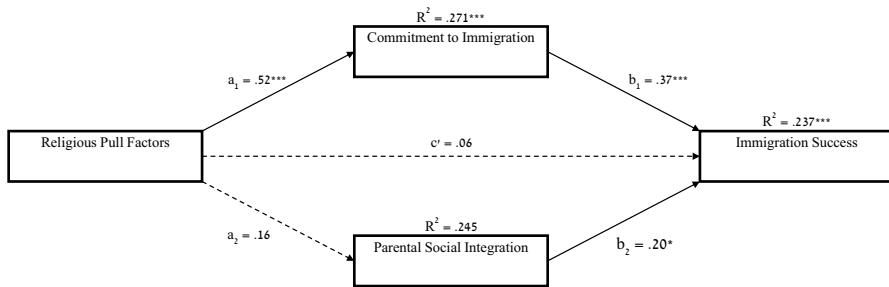


Fig. 2 Standardized direct paths (a, b, c')

Table 3 Summary of indirect paths ($a \times b$) and the difference between them

Indirect effects	Beta	SE	95% CI	
			Lower	Upper
Total	0.22	0.07	0.10	0.37
Commitment to immigration	0.19	0.06	0.08	0.33
Parental social integration	0.03	0.03	-0.01	0.10
Difference between mediation paths	0.16	0.07	0.03	0.30

determination to immigration ($r=0.52$) and parental social integration ($r=0.16$). Finally, immigration success (the dependent variable) was also positively associated with the two mediating variables: determination to immigration ($r=0.44$) and parental social integration ($r=0.29$).

Mediation Model

Figure 2 shows the standardized direct paths (a, b, c'). Table 3 presents the indirect effects ($a \times b$). Religious pull factors were significantly predictive of determination to immigration and determination to immigration was significantly predictive of immigration success. Accordingly (see Table 3), the indirect effects of determination to immigration were significant, suggesting a mediation effect.

Religious pull factors were not significantly predictive of parental social integration; however, parental social integration was significantly predictive of immigration success. Accordingly, the indirect effect of parental social integration on the association between religious pull factors and immigration success was not significant.

Finally, the direct effect of religious pull factors on immigration success were not significant. That is, the results of the model show a significant full mediating effect of determination to immigration (religious pull factors—> determination to immigration—> immigration success). Subsequent analyses controlling for age of child at *aliya* and gender showed similar results.

Discussion

The objectives of the current study were (1) to understand the way religious immigration motivation contributes to immigration adjustment, and (2) to understand the process by which post-immigration factors may mediate the association between religious immigration motivation and immigration adjustment. The current study examined these factors with a sample of US immigrants to Israel, a unique population with limited empirical focus in immigration studies.

Similar to results with other immigrant groups, immigration motivation of the current sample was driven by both pull and push dimensions (Ward et al. 2001). However, the findings of the study highlight distinctive experiences of immigration to Israel, including the importance of religious, spiritual, and biblical pull factors as immigration motivation (Waxman 1995b).

Religious pull factors were found to be associated with parental immigration determination, perceived immigration success, and social integration. Most importantly, the current study proposed a path that describes the process by which religious immigration motivation impacts long-term perceived immigration success. The relationship between pre-immigration religious motivation factors and immigration success was found to be mediated by immigration determination. A continuous determination and fortitude to live in the host country, initiated by a desire to immigrate for religious reasons, may be the process by which the initial immigration motivation continues to impact immigration perceived success long term. This finding underscores the importance of assessing post-immigration perceptions and long-term outcomes (Keller et al. 2012).

Furthermore, social integration was found to be a significant predictor of immigration success. Although this finding confirms other research focusing on various immigrant communities suggesting a strong link between social engagement and immigrant well-being (Zhang et al. 2019), the current finding is particularly interesting considering the particular experience of the present sample. Due to the influence of American culture on Israeli society, immigrants from the USA are viewed favorably in Israel (Sigad and Eisikovits 2010). However, this elevated status may prevent US immigrants from engaging in the host culture completely, sustaining detachment and alienation. The current findings support the need for active social and cultural engagement for immigration success (Repke and Benet-Martinez 2019).

Several limitations exist in the current study. First, the current analysis assessed only one member of the family and their perception of the immigration experience. To comprehensively assess family adjustment, future work should assess multiple members of the family, including both spouses and children (Magnusson 1998). In addition, data was not collected regarding participants' religious denomination. Hence, the generalizability of the findings to overall immigrants to Israel is limited. Relatedly, in terms of a representation of immigrants to Israel, the current sample focused on individuals who immigrated to Israel with intact families, as the main aim of the study was to assess family immigration process and success. Future work should assess the immigration process and adjustment

of people who immigrate to Israel alone, those with varied types of families, and young people, in addition to older adults who immigrate to Israel in retirement.

Additionally, the cross-sectional nature of the current study prevents any assessment of change over time. Future work should assess immigration motivation before the transition and then follow up with the process and outcomes measures longitudinally to gain a better account of long-term effects.

Furthermore, the measure used to assess immigration determination was based on a single-item question, and the scale used to assess immigration success was based on subjective immigrant experience. Future work on immigration success should utilize other well-known and reputable measures of well-being as the dependent variable. For example, the construct of flourishing (Węziak-Białowolska et al. 2019) can be used to better capture the extent to which immigrant families are flourishing in their host country long term. Considering the unique needs of immigrants, future work should also focus on particular dimensions of immigrant well-being by using measures of immigrant flourishing.

The current study focuses on a specific immigrant population in Israel which does not offer perspective on differing experiences of immigrants from other countries of origin. Considering that Israeli society has become Americanized (Rebhun and Waxman 2000), it would be interesting to see if the immigration process of US immigrants would entail a less challenging transition compared with immigrants from other countries.

Finally, although the study highlights several immigration motivation and process factors that may impact outcomes, it is unclear if these factors can be tested experimentally. Future studies should create intervention protocols, on the basis of studied correlative factors, that can be used pre- and post-immigration with children and families to maximize immigration success. For example, on the basis of the findings of the current study, programs assisting parents in developing social connections post-immigration can be tested to assess their effectiveness in enhancing long-term immigration success. Intervention studies with immigrant families have been successful at enhancing acculturation (Schwartz et al. 2019) and at ameliorating tensions relating to intergenerational culture gaps (Szapocznik et al. 1986).

The present study has both research and applied benefits. From a research perspective, the study adds to our limited understanding of the process by which pre-immigration factors relate to post-immigration perceived success. An important focus for future research is on the interconnection between past underlying family issues (e.g., family hostility, marital issues), immigration stressors, and immigration adjustment.

On the applied side, our results, which suggest a link between immigration motivation and immigration success, highlight the importance of identifying pre- and post-immigration variables that may impact successful immigration transition long term. For example, families contemplating immigration should examine the motivation behind their decision to immigrate and may want to address those difficulties before immigrating. Concurrently, families should consider accentuating the pull of the host country, which in the case of the current sample include factors such as religious, spiritual, biblical, and Zionist connections to the land of Israel. As was noted in a qualitative study (Milevsky 2016) on immigration adjustment to Israel,

parents should help guarantee that the religious factors “that brought the family to Israel in the first place continue to inspire daily life” (p. 45).

Furthermore, the current data can be used in the development of interventions that highlight maintenance and follow-up services and supports to ensure that success is maintained post-immigration. On the basis of an assessment of pre-immigration factors, organizations devoted to immigrant services can tailor amenities offered on the basis of the individual risk profile of immigrants. Families may be flagged as having pre-immigration risk factors, such as immigration motivation based on push factors, and selective services post-immigration can be offered for continued support to ensure progress is sustained.

Relatedly, considering the meaning and motivator of religious factors in the decision and process of *aliyah* success, religious leaders catering to immigrant populations should appreciate the role they play in their congregant’s adjustment and offer appropriate supports to ensure continuous immigration success. In fact, several recent studies have highlighted the integral role played by the clergy in the well-being and adjustment of their congregants in general and immigrant congregants in particular (Foley and Hoge 2007; Shapiro et al. 2021; Vishkin and Ben-Nun Bloom 2022).

Considering the consistent flow of immigrants to Israel and the difficulties often experienced by *olim*, understanding the immigrant experience, and focusing on immigration adjustment over time is a vital enterprise. The current study adds to this effort by highlighting the significance of assessing pre- and post-immigration variables in the study of immigration success and the pathways by which immigration motivation impacts long-term immigration adjustment.

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Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors have not disclosed any competing interests.

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