



Under the auspices of:
efpa
European Federation of Psychological Associations

**Psychology:
Uniting communities
for a sustainable world**
3 – 6 July 2023, Brighton Centre



Bicultural Identity Integration in Immigrant Children

Ilana M. Milevsky
Ariel University



The Consortium for Research on Aliyah
Ariel University

1

Introduction

- **Bicultural Identity Integration (BII)** describes an individual's emotional and cognitive experience of multiple cultural identities which are **harmonious and blended** (versus conflicting and separate) (Benet-Martinez & Haritatos, 2005).
- Among adult and adolescent samples, BII is associated with overall:
 - psychological well-being
 - lower loneliness
 - lower acculturation stress
 - less stress associated with language learning (Hyunh et al., 2018).

2

Introduction

The current study expands on the existing literature by exploring BII among children including reliability of a measure of BII and correlations among well-being and adjustment factors.

3

Method

- Study 1 sample included 25 English-speaking immigrant children (10-12 years old) in Israel recruited as a convenience sample through social media.
- Study 2 sample included 71 English-speaking immigrant children (10-14 years old) in Israel recruited through their schools and social media.
- Participants completed surveys regarding BII, acculturation stress, loneliness, and answered questions about comfort speaking Hebrew and friendship with host-culture peers.

4

Results

Study 1: Reliability study found acceptable reliability of an adjusted version of the BIIS-II among English-speaking immigrant children living in Israel

Study 2: Correlational study

Table 1

Correlational matrix between BII and loneliness, acculturation stress, comfort speaking Hebrew and self-report friendships with Hebrew-speaking friends

Variables correlated with BII	r	N	p
Loneliness	-.40	75	<.001
Acculturation Stress	-.48	75	<.001
Comfort Speaking Hebrew	.44	73	<.001
Friendship with Hebrew-speaking peers	.19	74	.1

5

Conclusions

- The current study added to current understanding of BII by extending the research to include children.
- Results of the study show that BII is a relevant construct for bicultural children and that it is associated with adjustment.

6