

ESRC Project Final Report

Postdoctoral Fellowship

Award Reference Number: PTA-026-27-1181
Amount Awarded: £32,352
Award Holder: Marina Shapira
Period of Award: May 2006-April 2007

Objectives of Award

The award holder aimed to further develop her research skills in research methodology at both the theoretical and empirical levels in the area of Immigration, Education, Labour Markets and Socio-Economic Inequality.

Career Development

The award is held in the Centre for Educational Sociology within the department of Education and Society at the University of Edinburgh. The CES is an independent research Centre with established expertise in large scale quantitative studies and in secondary analysis. Marina Shapira has participated fully in the Centre's activities and gained considerable and varied experience of the planning and conducting of research. In particular she has been closely involved in the large-scale project 'Education and Youth Transitions in England, Wales and Scotland, 1984-2000' [ESRC R000239852: PI Dr Linda Croxford]. Marina was able to participate in project planning meetings, to attend meetings of the project advisory group of senior policy-makers and academics, and make presentations to them. This experience has been instrumental in developing Marina's research and dissemination capacities. The project received an 'outstanding' grade.

More generally, as a member of the Centre Marina has been active in participating and presented her research in the regular seminars and workshops organised by the Centre. These have involved internal and external speakers, and include methodological workshops where research problems are worked through collectively. She has also participated in Departmental activities and in the relevant research activities of the wider College of Humanities and Social Sciences, particularly in the Migration and Citizenship network organised by Dr Christina Boswell in the Department of Politics. Marina is also a participant in the work of the EQUALSOC network (6th Framework Network of Excellence: Economic Change, Quality of Life and Social Cohesion) and maintains active connections with the international research group led by Professor Anthony Heath at Nuffield College, Oxford, which is researching the educational attainment of second generation ethnic minorities. In addition, she has continued to work with Professor Heath on the labour market attainment of second generation ethnic minorities in Israel-this develops further the work initiated in her Ph.D. thesis. Those activities have enhanced her theoretical perspectives, contributed to her development as an independent researcher, and supported her in the writing of academic articles.

Publication Plans

Marina has submitted three articles based on her Ph.D. research to peer reviewed journals and they are currently under review (see ESRC Award Outputs) and the forth article to the Oxford University Department of Sociology Working Papers Series. She is currently working on another two articles based on her Ph.D. as well as a book proposal. In addition she is preparing two academic papers based on her work in the EYT project and presented it at the conference on "Expected and Unexpected Consequences of Educational Expansion", Ascona, Switzerland.

Dissemination and Networking Activities

As indicated earlier, networking activities have developed very productively. Marina has presented her PhD research at RC 28 conferences in 2004 and 2005, and at the EQUALSOC meeting in 2005. (She was unable to attend the 2006 RC 28 conference since it coincided with the final conference of the EYT project in which Marina was actively involved). However, Marina will present papers based on her Ph.D. research at the RC 28 Conference that will be held in August 2007, Montréal, as well as at the European Sociological Association 8th Conference, September 2007 (Group: European Researchers in Migration and Ethnic Studies: Contemporary Methods in Migration Research.)

During the year of her fellowship Marina was actively involved in the work of two networks on migration. The first is a group for the study of 'Education and second generation immigrants in Western societies' and is part of the EQUALSOC research network: the second is the interdisciplinary 'Immigration and Citizenship' network based in the Department of Politics at the University of Edinburgh. During the year Marina presented her work at seminars held by the networks and was involved in discussions on the development of future projects on the study of immigration in Scotland that were organised by the 'Immigration and Citizenship' network. Marina also worked on a paper on education and second generation minorities in Israel that will become a chapter in a book which is currently in production by the 'Education and second generation immigrants in Western societies' network. She was also involved in various discussion about the design and structure of the book.

Marina also established a productive working relationship with colleagues from the Centre for Law and Society in the University of Edinburgh and is currently in discussion of a joint project on study of immigrant youth in Scotland. Additionally Marina established contact with the Department of Health Studies in the University of Edinburgh and she will be involved as an expert quantitative analyst in a study of the socio-economic determinants of health among ethnic minorities in Scotland.

Skill Development and Advanced Training

Marina's academic writing has benefited from the award. Her participation in the day to day activities of the Centre, in its research work and seminars has provided insights into, and experience of, a range of research methodologies in action, along with insight into large scale project management and the organization, planning and dissemination of research. The experience gained by the award-holder has informed her research proposal to the UPTAP programme and has also supported her current publications.

Marina undertook informal training on longitudinal research methods based on the support material provided on line by the Longitudinal Research Methods Group, Department of Sociology, University of Stirling. This contributed to further development of her quantitative skills and will be very important for her future research. Marina also attended the 2006 ESRC Oxford Spring School on advanced statistical research methods and she is going to attend a further school on advanced statistical methods in the summer of 2007. She attended a workshop on the Scottish Longitudinal Survey at St. Andrew's University in March 2007.

The year of the award allowed her also to broaden her knowledge of immigration issues to include European and in particular, British immigration. That allowed her to reflect on the implications of the findings of her D.Phil. study that uses Israeli data for Western European societies and to translate successfully the methodology that she applied in her doctoral study to the development of proposals for such studies.

Development of Research Proposals

Marina has developed her proposal writing skills and submitted a successful application to the University's Development Trust Fund. Her skills in this area are evidenced by her application 'Understanding the Labour Market Impact of Immigration in Britain' to the ESRC's UPTAP programme.

Research Activities

Research activity has remained within the guidelines of the award. As indicated earlier, Marina has conducted some research in collaboration with Anthony Heath on the labour market disadvantage of ethnic minorities and further tested the research methodology on labour market segmentation and its impact on the socio-economic disadvantage of ethnic minorities and immigrants. An attempt has been made to further develop the methodology of the study of immigration incorporation and immigration labour market impacts in order to extend it to the British context. This has fed into the design of the research on the immigration labour market impact that forms the basis of her UPTAP proposal. She has also developed a draft research proposal on immigration and educational and labour market assimilation in Britain.

As a part of the preparation of research proposals on immigration in Scotland, Britain and Europe, Marina has spent a considerable amount of time investigating available data sources on issues related to education, labour market outcomes and the social mobility of immigrants. She also established contact with several government agencies (i.e. Scottish Executive, NSO) in those cases where detailed information on immigrants and ethnic minorities was not publicly available. She has obtained and familiarized herself with such data sources as the Scottish and British longitudinal studies, the Scottish and British Household Surveys, Labour Force Surveys (including boosted samples for Scotland) as well as Eurostat.

ESRC Award Outputs

M.Shapira.(2006): 'Segmented Labour Market and Socio-Economic Disadvantage of Recent Immigrants'. Under review with: *Research on Stratification and Mobility*.

M. Shapira.(2006): 'Immigration Labour Market Impact – Recent Immigrants in the Israeli Labour Market'. Under Review: *International Migration Review*.

M. Shapira.(2006): 'Immigration, Human Capital and Ethnic Gaps in the Israeli Labour Market'. Under Review: *International Migration*.

M. Shapira. (2006) "Segmented Labour Market and Socio-Economic Disadvantage of Recent Immigrants." CES Working Paper No.1.Edinburgh, centre for Educational Sociology

Shapira, M. (2006) "Immigration Labour Market Impact – Recent Immigrants in the Israeli Labour Market." CES Working Paper No.2, Edinburgh, Centre for Educational Sociology.

Shapira, M. (2006) "Immigration, Human Capital and Ethnic Gaps in the Israeli Labour Market." CES Working Paper No.3, Edinburgh, Centre for Educational Sociology.

Shapira, M. (2007) "A Comparison Between the Modes of Labour Market Incorporation of (former) Soviet Immigrants in the 1970s and in the 1990s." CES Working Paper No.4, Edinburgh, Centre for Educational Sociology.

Shapira, M (2007) "Do Qualifications Matter? Credentials and the Labour Market Outcomes of Migrants in Israel" CES Working Paper No.4, Edinburgh, Centre for Educational Sociology.