

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/fertility-migration-and-altruism/>

This video discusses the personal narrative of the speaker's family history, particularly focusing on the experiences of their grandmother and her half-brother, who immigrated from Ukraine to Canada and later to Israel, respectively. It illustrates the emotional bonds and sacrifices made by families during migration, as well as the disparity in life experiences before and after migration.

The speaker recounts their first visit to Israel as a teenager, where they met their uncle (the grandmother's half-brother) and observed the contrasting perspectives on migration. Despite facing hardships in their new environment, the family expressed no regrets about their decision to migrate, primarily for the prospects of their children and grandchildren.

This video narrative sets the backdrop for a broader study on the fertility rates among different migrant cohorts from the former Soviet Union to Israel. The study aims to analyze how early and late movers differ in terms of fertility, driven by economic factors and the quality of life in their new environments. It suggests that those who migrated earlier, facing higher costs and barriers, may be more motivated to invest in their families' futures than later migrants, which reflects intergenerational altruism.

The speaker connects this anecdote to research findings, revealing significant differences in fertility between early and late movers. The early movers exhibited higher fertility rates, and two-thirds of this difference was attributed to selection, with the remaining third related to the supportive environment in Israel. The discussion concludes with thoughts on the implications of these findings for policy, particularly in the context of declining fertility in Western countries and the potential costs associated with incentivizing childbearing.