Abstract
This study examines the validity of the “double negative” effect of belonging to two negative status groups -- being both female and foreign-born -- on economic integration into a receiving society, concentrating especially on the economic aspect of labor-force participation. The immigrant population which arrived in Israel during the period 1983-1994 from 35 different countries in Asia, Africa, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and North and South America served as the focus. Results from multivariate analysis of the 1995 Israeli census show that gender and nativity status do operate, independently of each other, to depress the position of immigrant women in the labor force. However, the interaction of being jointly female and foreign-born, while reducing the likelihood of labor-force participation, somewhat mitigates the separate effects of each of these factors. Moreover, there are variations in the gender gap of labor-force participation by country of birth: as compared to their native-Israeli counterparts, immigrant women from a few Asian and African countries, as well as from West European countries and the United States exhibit lower tendencies to participate in the local labor-force while immigrants from a few east European countries and Argentina are more likely to be in the labor-force. Implications for research and policy are discussed.