

Abstract

This study begins by building a historical and conceptual framework for studying antisemitism and its origins and then discusses a number of potential causal factors influencing fluctuations in antisemitic incidents, and comparing them to hate crimes. We then conduct an OLS panel analysis examining the relationship between growing numbers of Muslim-origin migrants in OECD member states, and a rise in antisemitic incidents in the states absorbing them. The analysis is based on a unique data set, derived from governments and NGOs, of 10 countries with figures on antisemitic incidents and migration over the course of 15 years, while controlling for economic, political and Israel-related variables.

We find that migrants from Muslim countries are positively correlated with subsequent antisemitic incidents, especially in Europe. These findings are robust for alternative measures of both migrants and incidents. Meanwhile, migrants from non-Muslim countries are not correlated to future antisemitic incidents, but rather to future non-antisemitic hate crimes. Additionally, Muslim migration under right-wing governments has a positive relationship with antisemitic incidents.

Overall, our analysis provides preliminary empirical support that growing numbers of Muslim migrants in OECD countries can be linked with rising levels of antisemitic incidents.