Hammer & Silicon: The Soviet Diaspora in the US Innovation Economy
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Opportunity
• Link importance of immigration to innovation
• Highlight contribution to US innovation economy of highly educated tech professionals from the former USSR
• Influence US immigration policy by showing contributions to innovation

Approach
• In-depth, semi-structured interviews with 157 high tech professionals in Boston-Cambridge and Silicon Valley
• Immigration and innovation analyzed through social science theories on institutions, imprinting, and identity

Results
• Immigrants’ own statements on experiences with immigration, adjustment to US, and roles as entrepreneurs, scientists, and in R&D

Impact
• Helps shape US immigration policy
• Guides organizations in attracting and retaining technically trained immigrants
• Adds to academic literature on the nexus of immigration and innovation

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