



"Deaf Communities – Past, Present and Future"

In memory of Prof. Irit Meir

February 25, 2020, Safdie auditorium, University of Haifa

11:00-12:00 GATHERING, REGISTRATION AND SNACKS

Opening remarks:

12:00 **Prof. Wendy Sandler**, Head of the Sign Language Research Lab, University of Haifa

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow

The story of our lab – Producer – **Ora Ohanin**

12:10 **Prof. Mark Aronoff**, Stony Brook University, USA

What Irit Meir taught us about language

12:20 *On the love of language and the love of people: The story of a joint dance -*

Ron Meir

12:25 *"Bread Crumbs" A song in four languages* – **Ella Meir**

Session 1:

With Their Own Hands – The History of the Deaf Community in Israel

Session chair: Debi Menashe, University of Haifa

12:35 **Debi Menashe**, University of Haifa

The lab's contribution to the historical documentation of the deaf community

12:45 **Ruty Levinger**, The Deaf Community Archive

The founding of a community and its home: Helen Keller House

13:00 **Dr. Rose Stamp**, University of Haifa, Bar-Ilan University

Memories of the past in deaf communities around the world:

A documentary film debut

13:10 *Film: "We Were There"*

13:30 LUNCH BREAK



אוניברסיטת חיפה

המעבדה לחקר שפת סימנים

Sign Language Research Laboratory

مختبر الأبحاث في لغة الإشارة



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Session 2:

The Language of Young Signers – A Bridge between Past and Future

Session chair: Dr. Svetlana Dachkovsky, University of Haifa, Gordon College of Education

14:30 **Prof. Susan Goldin-Meadow**, University of Chicago, USA

From homesign to language

14:55 **Dr. Rama Novogrodsky & Ora Ohanin**, University of Haifa

The vocabulary of toddlers in Israeli Sign Language

15:20 **Prof. Naama Friedman & Doron Levi**, Tel Aviv University

Language acquisition: The importance of signing from birth

15:45 COFFEE BREAK

Session 3:

Deaf Communities in Israel and around the World

Session chair: Yifat Ziv Ben-Zeev, Sign Language Field Supervisor, Ministry of Education

16:15 *Voices of sign language communities*

Sara Lanesman, Jews of Ghardaia, Algeria, **Naima Al-Sayyid**, Al-Sayyid Bedouins, **Meir Etedgi**, The Israeli Sign Language community, **Meyad Sarsour-Nadai**, Kfar Qassem

17:00 **Prof. Carol Padden**, University of California - San Diego, USA

The diversity of Deaf communities

17:30 Sign Language Theatre
with the actors of the Ebisu Sign Language Theatre Laboratory