



המעבדה לחקר שפת סימנים

Sign Language Research Laboratory

אוניברסיטת חיפה

مختبر الأبحاث في لغة الإشارة



## "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



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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