**Overview of my Interests**

My professional career in psychology has focused on social development, both in research and clinical applications, with a special emphasis on close relationships. I’ve enjoyed an international career, visiting many universities and making connections with colleagues who have become my friends, and have been a member of more than six international organizations. In Israel, I have served as a supervisor and mentor to many clinical and developmental psychologists, many of whom are now chief psychologists, running mental health clinics and other therapeutic settings. I am chairwoman of an association that developed an original model of parent-child dyadic psychotherapy, and am preparing to write a book about supervision and mentoring.

**A Focus on Research Activity**

The general subject of my research is the development of close relationships from a cultural perspective.

My research began by investigating intimate friendships in the kibbutz setting, with participants from 19 kibbutzim and hundreds of children from cities. In the 1970’s, when I began the study, research on friendships was almost non-existent amongst psychologists and sociologists. At the time, developmental psychology focused on sociometric-status studies, and social psychology focused on attraction. As a result, I had to define a new concept and develop an original, psychometrically-sound measurement for my 1974 dissertation. To date, this first paper using the “friendship measure” (1981) is still being cited (613 citations, Google Scholar) and the results from the graph in this study have appeared in seven developmental psychology textbooks. Another article of mine (1994) fully describes the concept and measurement of “intimate friendship” and its psychometric qualities for children, adolescents, and adults (224 citations, Google Scholar).

My research on the kibbutz setting continued in its focus on peer relationships and the effects of communal sleeping on mothers, which is a unique instance of the impact of culture as socialization within normative conditions. One of my recent papers is about parents who grew up in the kibbutz, examining how significant cultural shifts with regards to childrearing, namely from communal sleeping to family sleeping, affect the sleeping routine these parents now employ with their own infants. The implications of these studies hope to ease the transition of socialization practices from one generation to the next. The results of the kibbutz studies are reflected upon in several papers, and in a co-authored book that used an original integrative format of dialogue.

Over time, the main focus of my research has shifted from friendships to intimacy in close relationships. This is a relatively new interdisciplinary area, in which my research has played a role, alongside studies by psychologists, sociologists, and communication researchers. Theoretical ground was found in “attachment theory,” both in its social psychology definitions and measurements. My involvement in research on close relationships was recognized by my being elected to the board of directors of the International Association for Relationship Research, being on the editorial board of the *Personal Relationships* journal for ten years, and serving as an associate editor for the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. These are the two leading journals in the interdisciplinary research on close relationships (they are both specific, yet categorized among the very large number of various social psychology journals). I was also invited to write an entry for the *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*. Recently, I was electedChair of the Scientific Program of the biennial conference of the International Association for Relationship Research, following a competitive vote by the international membership of the organization.

My developmental line of research is in peer relationships and friendship. Recently, I was invited to write an article for the *International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development* (ISSBD) with responses and discussion from the field’s most prominent investigators. In addition, I was asked to contribute a chapter to a book by the most prominent scholars of cross-cultural studies and peer relationships. Furthermore, I was invited to be a co-convener and presenter at an ISSBD meeting, a co-convener at the peer pre-conference of SRCD, and at the Society for Research on Adolescence in Austin, Texas, in March, 2014.

Another focus of my studies has been Israeli-Arab culture in the context of socialization. A recent paper and a chapter that I wrote document the relevance of culture, socio-economic status, and parental socialization to intimacy and friendship with various figures. I was invited to write about cross-national friendship for the IARR bulletin. My research on the impact of culture and socialization is supported by Bronfenbrenner’s ecological theory, which recognizes three levels of socialization: the large context (culture, SES, etc.), specific experience of the individual (parents’ socialization, sleeping arrangements), and the traits of the individual (attachment style).

These subjects are also reflected in a number of the 95 graduate research theses that I have supervised, and an additional 25 Master’s final projects that I co-supervised at the Academic College of Tel Aviv­-Jaffa. Needless to say, I also collaborate with colleagues all over the world on studies in the above areas.

Finally, as well as teaching and supervising projects for many years on developmental, cultural, and clinical subjects, I have co-authored two developmental-clinical articles published in a prominent psychoanalytic journal (*The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, founded by Anna Freud)—one paper on Ethiopian immigrants and the other on cyber-psychotherapy.

In summary, during my career I have contributed to the development of the interdisciplinary field of research on close relationships, from both cultural and developmental perspectives.

**Present and Future Plans**

I hope to continue teaching and supervising research students of all levels, and will continue to focus on close relationships and their development. I currently supervise nineMA students at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, and also supervise PhD dissertations at the University of Haifa.

Among several of my ongoing projects is a follow-up study on friendships among children. In 1977, I collected data about the friendships of 358 children; we are following up with these children now, as adults, 37 years later (including questionnaires and observations of dyads of friends and non-friends). We were able to locate 100 of the original participants who agreed to participate in the follow-up study. Two lines of study are planned: one that focuses on the personality traits involved in continuity or discontinuity of close friendships, and the other on predictions from adolescence into adulthood of close relationships (couples, friends, children, etc.). There is great importance to conducting longitudinal studies, which offer a truly unique perspective; thus far, four MA theses have been written based on this data, as well as two articles, one of which has already been published.

Since my retirement from the University of Haifa, I have nonetheless continued my research and supervision of graduate students there. Simultaneously, I am the founder and chair of the Master’s program in Developmental Psychology at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, from which six classes have graduated and an eighth class is beginning. The program is strongly rooted in the combination of applied and research perspectives. I plan to take a sabbatical year in 2022­–2023 to focus on writing a book about mentoring and clinical and research supervision.