**Date:** November **2020**

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

1. **Personal Details**

Name: Ran Neuman

Date of Birth: 1.8.1972

Permanent Home Address: Arbel 10, Koranit Misgav, Israel

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1. **Higher Education**

##### Undergraduate and Graduate Studies

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree/** **Certificate** | **Name of Institution**  **and Department** | **Period of Study** |
| B.A. | The Faculty of Education and The Faculty of Psychology, University of Haifa, Israel | 1993-1996 |
| M.A. | School of Social Work University of Haifa, Israel | 1998-2001 |
| Certificate-  Integrative psychotherapy | The Magid Institute for Continuing Studies - The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel | 2001-2004 |
| Certificate-Instructors in social work | Faculty of Welfare and Health Studies, University of Haifa, Israel | 2004-2006 |
| Ph.D. | Special Education, The Faculty of Education, University of Haifa, Israel | 2009-2013 |

1. **Academic Ranks and Tenure in Institutes of Higher Education**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank/Position** | **Name of Institution and Department** | **Years** |
| Supervisor of practical training in social work | School of Social Work, University of Haifa, Israel | 2004-2012 |
| Teaching Fellow | Shiluv Center, School of Psychotherapy, Kfar Tikva,  in cooperation with the University of Haifa, Israel | 2010-2014 |
| Teaching Fellow | Department of Education, Tel-Hai College, Israel | 2011-2014 |
| Teaching Fellow | Department of Education, Yezreel Valley Academic College, Israel | 2013-2015 |
| Teaching Fellow | Department of Social Work & Department of Multidisciplinary- Studies Special Education and Psychology, Zefat Academic College, Israel | 2015-2017 |
| Lecturer | Department of Social Work & Department of Multidisciplinary- Studies Special Education and Psychology, Zefat Academic College, Israel | 2017- |

1. **Offices in Academic Administration**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Name of Institution and Department** | **Years** |
| Status Committee- **Member** | Zefat Academic College, Israel | 2016-2017 |
| Committee for practical training- **Member** | Zefat Academic College, Israel | 2017-2018 |
| Second Year Studies-Department of Social Work- **students and curriculum Coordinator** | Zefat Academic College, Israel | 2017-2019 |
| College Teaching Committee- **Member** | Zefat Academic College, Israel | 2018- |

1. **Scholarly Positions and Activities outside the University**

**Membership in Professional Associations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Membership** | **Years** |
| IASSIDD *–* International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities. **Member** | **2017 -2019** |
| IASSIDD – Special Interest Group- Parenting With Intellectual Disabilities | **2017 -2019** |

**Responsibilities in Editing Journals**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Membership** | **Years** |
| Issues in Special Education and Inclusion- ISIT (Hebrew)- volume 30-Special issue, Holistic Supports - in the life cycles of persons with disabilities - **Guest Editor** | **2018 -2020** |
| Issues in Special Education and Inclusion- ISIT (Hebrew)- **Member of editorial board** | **2020-** |

**Activities outside the University**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities outside the University** | **Years** |
| Kfar Tikva - a rehabilitative community and home for people with disabilities, Israel-  **Head of community living facilities and services and member of the Executive Board** | 1997- |
| Kfar Tikva - The Center for Academic Research, Israel- **Director** | 2017- |

1. **Active Participation in Scholarly Conferences**

##### a. International Conferences -

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Subject of Lecture/Discussion** | **Place** | **Name of Conference** | **Date** |
| Oral presentation | People with Special Needs also Want- Couple Relationships, Intimacy and Sexuality. | Israel | Beit Issie Shapiro 6th International Conference on Disabilities | July 2-5, 2013 |
| Oral presentation | The Journey from Universality to Subjectivity- Inclusion and Community living in the 21 Century | Israel | Beit Issie Shapiro 6th International Conference on Disabilities Unity & Diversity in Action | July 6-7, 2015 |
| Oral presentation | Establishing and Maintaining Couple-hood as Perceived by Couples with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Implications for Provision of Supports. | Bangkok, Thailand | IASSIDD 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Congress | November 13 -16, 2017 |
| Poster | The Cycle of Internalized Learning (CIL) Model: A Social Learning Program for Adults. | Athens, Greece | IASSIDD 5th European Regional Congress | July 17-20,  2018 |
| Oral presentation | Attitudes of Direct Support Staff, Regarding Couples Relationships of Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disability: Implications for the Provision of Supports. | Athens, Greece | IASSIDD 5th European Regional Congress | July 17-20,  2018 |
| Chair of session | Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Parents with Intellectual Disabilities. | Athens, Greece | IASSIDD 5th European Regional Congress | July 17-20,  2018 |
| Oral presentation | Parents' Perceptions Regarding Couple Relationships of Their Adult Children with Intellectual Developmental Disability (IDD)- A Qualitative Research Report | Twin Cities, Minnesota,  U.S.A | AAIDD Annual Meeting: Knowledge Translation- Power Through Research, Policy, and Practice | June 24-27,  2019 |
| Poster | Promoting Quality of Life of Persons with Intellectual Disability: A Social Learning Group Intervention Model,  the Cycle of Internalized Learning (CIL) | Twin Cities, Minnesota, U.S.A | AAIDD Annual Meeting: Knowledge Translation- Power Through Research, Policy, and Practice | June 24-27,  2019 |

##### b. Organization of Conferences or Sessions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Place** | **Name of Conference** | **Date** |
| Kfar Tikva- research center, Kiryat Tivon | "A good reason to get up in the morning"-  Couple relationships of adults with intellectual disabilities as part of the journey of life in adulthood.  **Organizer and Chairperson of conference**  **Head of academic advisory committee** | April 26, 2019 |
| Kfar Tikva- research center in collaboration with Zefat Academic college | "Daring to Dream"  Introduction to an innovative intervention tool aimed at assisting adults with disabilities to enjoy a fuller life- by Prof. Diane Bryen, from Temple University, Philadelphia, USA.    **Organizer and Chairperson of conference and two workshops**  **Head of academic advisory committee** | November 11, 12,14, 2019 |

##### c. Local Conferences

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Subject of Lecture/Discussion** | **Place** | **Name of Conference** | **Date** |
| Oral presentation | Characteristics, and Implications of Couple Relationship from the Perspective of People with Intellectual Disabilities Living as Couples | Ben Gurion University,  Israel | The 6th Israeli Interdisciplinary Conference on Qualitative Research - Qualitative Research in Action | February 4-5, 2014 |
| Oral presentation | Paradigm Shifts and Changes in the Intervention Programs for People with Disabilities | Beer Sheva University | Conference of the Ministry of Welfare | November12, 2014 |
| Oral presentation | Accessibility to Couple Relationships as an Illustration of the Right of People with IDD to Live a Full and Meaningful Lives | Ben Gurion University,  Israel | The 8th Israeli Interdisciplinary Conference on Qualitative Research - Between the personal and the political | February 6, 2018 |
| Oral presentation | Between the Social Paradigm and the Humanist Conception: The influence of Micro and Macro Practice, on the Quality of Life of People with Disabilities | Zefat Academic College,  Israel | Macro Matters- The Second Conference on Macro Practice in Social Work | February 27, 2018 |
| Oral presentation | The Model of the Cycle of Internalized Learning (CIL) in Adulthood- implemented with Adults with Disabilities | Zefat Academic College,  Israel | Macro Matters- The Second Conference on Macro Practice in Social Work | February 27, 2018 |
| Oral presentation  (Invited) | Intimate Relationships- in the Lives of Adults with Disabilities | Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel | Down Syndrome- International Conference 2019 | April 1,  2019 |
| Workshop  (Invited) | Life Skills Relevant for Intimate Relationships in the Lives of Adults with Disabilities | Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel | Down Syndrome- International Conference 2019 | April 1,  2019 |
| Oral presentation  (Invited) | Support and Resources in the Life Journey of Adults with Disabilities | Kfar Tikva- research center in collaboration with Zefat academic college | "Daring to Dream" | November 11, 2019 |

1. **Invited Lectures (Other than in Scholarly Conferences)**

##### a. In Israel

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Subject of Lecture** | **Place of Lecture** | **Name of Forum** | **Year** |
| Invited Speaker | Couple Relationships of People with Disabilities | Tel-Hai College, Israel | Department of Education | 2011 |
| Invited Speaker | Couple Relationships from the Perspective of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities | Beit Berl College, Israel | Department of Education | 2015 |
| Invited Speaker | The Implications of Challenges in Adulthood on Special Education in Childhood and Adolescence | Kfar Tikva, Israel | Heads of special education departments- Forum, Ministry of Education | 2016 |
| Invited Speaker | Approaches Throughout History as Guidelines for Supporting People with Disabilities | University of Haifa, Israel | Department of Occupational Therapy | 2016 |
| Invited Speaker | Where do We Go From Here? Attitudes Towards Adults with Disabilities- Past, Present and Future | Kfar Tikva- research center | Office of social services, Tiberius | 2018 |
| Invited Speaker | Assistance and Supports by Service Providers of Adults with IDD. | Kfar Tikva- research center | Ministry of Welfare- Department of Rehabilitation. | 2018 |
| Seminar | Micro and Macro Practice- Intervention Strategies for Assisting Adults with Disabilities. | Kfar Tikva- research center | Kfar Tikve- service support staff | 2018 |
| Invited Speaker | From theory to practice- Changes in Attitudes and Supports Strategies Towards Adult with Disabilities. | Kfar Tikva- research center | Parents and siblings of adults with IDD | 2018 |
| Invited Speaker | Support and Guidance of Adults with Disabilities. | Center Stage- Ganei- Tikva | Ministry of Welfare - The National Forum of Social Workers in residential services for people with disabilities. | 2018 |
| Invited Speaker | Couple Relationships from the Perspective of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, their Parents and the Support Staff Working with Them. | Oranim College, Israel | Department of Education | 2019 |
| Invited Speaker | Couple Relationships of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities. | Yezreel Valley College | Departments of Behavioral Sciences | 2019 |
| Invited Speaker | “A Good Reason to Get Up in the Morning"- Couple Relationships of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities. | Western Galilee College | Department of Education | 2019 |
| Invited Speaker | Support and Resources in the Life Journey of Adults with Disabilities. | Kfar Tikva- research center | Kochav Hazafon Association | 2020 |
| Invited Speaker | Couple Relationships of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities. | Western Galilee College | Department of Education | 2020 |

1. **Research Grants**
2. **Grants Awarded**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years** | **Amount** | **Funded by** | **Title** | **Other Researchers** | **Role in Research** |
| 2010 | 68,000  N. S | Keren Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel. | Couple Relationships from the perspective of people with intellectual disability living as couples.  A comparison of quality of life and self-esteem in couple's relationships versus relationships between friends. | Prof. Shunit Reiter (CO) | CO-PI |
| 2017 | 100,000  N. S | Keren Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel. | The contribution of intervention program based on the "the Cycle of Internalized Learning" for coping with verbal violence and improve the quality of life of people with IDD leaving in different home settings. | Dr. Nirit Karni  (CO) | CO-PI |
| 2017 | 100,000 N. S | Keren Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel. | The influence of the humanistic orientation on the perception and attitude of service providers supporting adults with IDD and on the perception of service recipients regarding their abilities and lives. | Prof. Shunit Reiter (CO)  Dr. Nirit Karni (CO-PI) | CO-PI |

1. **Submission of Research Proposals – Pending**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years** | **Amount** | **Funded by** | **Title** | **Other Researchers** | **Role in Research** |
| 2020 | 332,000  N. S | ISF - Israel Science Foundation | A new model of support for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities-defining  the role of service providers based on a holistic perception | Prof. Shunit Reiter (CO-PI) | PI |

1. **Internal Grants Awarded**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years** | **Amount** | **Funded by** | **Title** | **Other Researchers** | **Role in Research** |
| 2016 | 2,500  N. S | Zefat academic college | Establishing and maintaining couple-hood as perceived by couples with intellectual and developmental disabilities: implications for provision of supports. |  | PI |
| 2017 | 21,300  N. S | Zefat academic college | Attitudes of service providers, regarding couple relationships of people with intellectual and developmental disability. |  | PI |
| 2017 | 22,300  N. S | Zefat academic college | Attitudes of parents, regarding couple-hood of their offspring with intellectual and developmental disability: Implications for the provision of support. |  | PI |
| 2018 | 17,800  N. S | Zefat academic college | Transitions in the lives of adults with disabilities- a model based on the humanistic approach for providing guidance and support |  | PI |
| 2019 | 13,000  N. S | Zefat academic college | Attitudes of service providers and parents regarding sexuality and parenthood of adults with intellectual disability, as basis for their role perception and conduct |  | PI |
| 2019 | 8,000  N. S | Zefat academic college | Book (Editor)- Supporting persons with disability in their journey through adulthood |  | PI |
| 2019 | 40,000  N. S | Kfar Tikva- research center | Book (Editor)-  Looking Beyond-  Supporting persons with disability in their journey through adulthood |  | PI |
| 2020 | 10,000  N. S | Zefat academic college | The implementation the "Daring to Dream" intervention program in Israel, and its implications on the role perception of service providers supporting adults with disabilities | Diane Bryen, Prof. Emerita  Temple University Philadelphia, U.S.A | PI |
| 2020 | 3500  N. S | Zefat academic college | Position paper-  The continued dependence of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout their life course as adults- As a basis for redefining the support system they require from service providers |  | PI |

1. **Grants for academic courses**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **year** | **course** | **Funded by** | **year** | **Amount** |
| 2017- | Initiator and Lecturer-  A one year advanced academic course on the supports provided to persons with intellectual developmental disabilities. Funded by Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel. | Keren Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel | 2017 | 28, 000 |
| 2018 | 28, 000 |
| 2019 | 22,400 |
| 2020 | 17,920 |
| 2021 | 10,752 |
| Total- 107,072 N. S | |

1. **Scholarships, Awards and Prizes**

2016- The Academic College of Zefat, the President's award for Excellence in Teaching. (10,000 N.S)

2002 – The Deans' award for Academic Excellence, MA, University of Haifa.

1. **Teaching**

###### Courses Taught in Recent Years

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Type of Course** | **Name of Course** | **Years** |
| B.A. | Lecture | Developmental psychology | 2010-2014 |
| B.A. | Lecture | Introduction to psychology | 2010-2015 |
| B.A. | Lecture | Intellectual disability as a unique challenge for intervention | 2010-2014 |
| B.A. | Lecture | Introduction to special education | 2012-2014 |
| B.A. | Seminar | The families of children and adults with disabilities | 2013-2015 |
| B.A. | Lecture | Behavior analysis and modification in special education | 2013-2018 |
| B.A. | Lecture | Acquiring life skills in special education | 2013-2018 |
| B.A. | Seminar | Intervention Seminar – providing the necessary supports for persons with intellectual developmental disabilities | 2015- |
| B.A. | Lecture | Methods of intervention in social work | 2015- |
| B.A. | supervision | Practical training in social work | 2015- |
| B.A. | Lecture | Introduction to special education- from Mainstreaming to Inclusion | 2016- |
| B.A. | Lecture | Introduction to intellectual and developmental disability | 2016- |
| B.A. | Lecture | Introduction to autism spectrum disorder | 2017- |
| B.A. | Lecture | Supporting the life journey of adults with disabilities | 2019-2020 |

**Miscellaneous**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Kfar Tikva - a rehabilitative community and home for people with disabilities, Israel** | |
| **Project** | **Years** |
| Establishment and management of the Kfar Tikvas' community living facilities and services. | 2000- |
| Establishment of an innovative residential project for adults with autism, in Kfar Tikva. | 2014 |
| Foundation of an Academic Center dedicated to conducting research and field studies related to adults with disabilities. | 2017- |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eran Mebel - architecture office Israel** | |
| **Project** | **Years** |
| Professional consultant for an architecture office in charge of planning a new village in the Lower Galilee- with the purpose of establishing an inclusive community for people with and without disabilities. | 2015-2016 |

1. **PUBLICATIONS**

###### Ph.D. Dissertation

1. The Characteristics, Meanings and Implications of Couples Relationships from the Perspective of People with Intellectual Disability Living as Couples.

Date of submission: May 2013

Name of supervisor: Prof. Shunit Reiter

University: University of Haifa, Israel

###### Articles in Refereed Journals

1. Gilbar, O. & **Neuman, R.** (2002). Which cancer patient completes a psychosocial intervention program? *Psycho-oncology*, 11, 461-471.

SJR: Q1 (in psychiatry and mental health) I.F: 3.095

1. **Neuman, R.** & Reiter, S. (2015). The experience of couple relationships as reflected in the stories of people with intellectual and developmental disability. *Journal of Israel Studies in Language and Society.* A special issue on: Voices of people with disabilities in the Israeli society. 7(1-2) 200-217. (Hebrew)
2. **Neuman, R**. & Reiter, S. (2017). Couple relationships as perceived by people with intellectual disability -Implications for quality of life and self-concept.  *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*. 63(3), 138-147.

SJR: Q4 (in rehabilitation) I.F: 0.55

1. **Neuman R.** (2020). Attitudes of direct support staff, regarding couples relationships of adults with intellectual disabilities- implications for the provision of supports. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 46(5), 713-725.

SJR: Q2 (in social sciences) I.F: 0.772 (5 years I.F: 1.119)

1. **Neuman R.** (2020). Establishing and maintaining couple relationships as perceived by couples with intellectual disabilities: Implications for families, support staff, and policy change. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities, 17(2), 132-142.*

SJR: Q3 (in social science)   I.F: 0.96

1. **Neuman, R.** (published online, until publication in a printed edition, 2019). Parents' perceptions regarding couple relationships of their adult children with intellectual disabilities. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities.*

SJR: Q1 (in education)   I.F: 1.769

1. **Neuman, R**. (published online, until publication in a printed edition, 2020). The Life Journeys of Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Implications for a New Model of Holistic Supports. *Journal of Social Service Research*.

SJR: Q2 (in social sciences) I.F: 0.772 (5 years I.F: 1.119)

Sent for publication-

1. **Neuman, R**. & Bryen. D. The implementation the "Daring to Dream" intervention program in Israel, and its implications on the role perception of service providers supporting adults with disabilities.

###### Articles or Chapters in Scientific Books (Refereed)

1. **Neuman, R.** & Reiter, S. (2017). The characteristics, meanings and implications of couple relationships from the perspective of people with intellectual disability living as couples. In S. Reiter, I. Kupferberg. & [I, Gilat](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Itzhak_Gilat). (Eds.), *Current Issues in Inclusion of Students and Adults with Special Needs in Israel: A Collection of Studies.* (pp.109-132). Tel Aviv: The Mofet Institute. (Hebrew)

###### Other Scientific Publications

1. **Neuman R**. (2020). On the journey to meaningful interpersonal relationships in adulthood. *Issues in Special Education and Inclusion - ISIT. Special issue, Holistic Supports - in the life cycles of persons with disabilities. 30*. 130-140. (Hebrew)

###### Research Reports

1. **Neuman, R.** & Reiter S. (2013).The characteristics, meanings and implications of couples relationships from the perspective of people with intellectual disability living as couples. A comparison of quality of life and self-esteem in couple's relationships versus relationships between friends. *Research report for Keren Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel*. (Hebrew)
2. Neuman, A., **Neuman, R.,** Neuman, R., Gordony, I., Shazberg, I. & Barkan, S. (2014). A research for evaluating the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disability living in extensions of a residential care facility in the community. *Research report for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services*. (Hebrew)
3. Reiter S., **Neuman, R**. & Karni, N. (2020). The influence of the humanistic orientation on the perception and attitude of service providers supporting adults with IDD and on the perception of service recipients regarding their abilities and lives. *Research report for Keren Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel*. (Hebrew)
4. Karni, N. & **Neuman, R.** (2020). The contribution of an intervention program based on the cycle of internalized learning (CIL) model for dealing with verbal violence and assist in improving the quality of life of adults with intellectual disabilities residing in supportive living arrangements. *Research report for Keren Shalem- Foundation for Development of Services for People with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel*. (Hebrew)

###### Other Publications

1. **Neuman, R**. (2018). Accessibility to couple relationships among adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Homesh: Rehabilitation* *Journal for Social Workers in Israel*. 29, 48-53. (Hebrew)
2. **Neuman, R.** (2018). Do not force me to be 'like everyone else', let me be me. *'Life in the Valley'- Magazine*. 99, 34. (Hebrew)

בקרב א25-26נשי

###### In preparation

Articles

1. **Neuman, R**. Attitudes of service providers and parents, regarding sexuality and parenthood of adults with intellectual disability, as basis for their perception and conduct.
2. **Neuman, R.** The continued dependence of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout their life course as adults- As a basis for redefining the support system they require from service providers- Position paper.

Edited Books

1. **Neuman, R.** (Editor). (In print). Looking Beyond- supporting persons with disability in their journey through adulthood. (Hebrew)

Chapters

1. **Neuman, R.** (in print). Model of Holistic supports for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. R. Neuman (ed.), Looking Beyond- supporting persons with disability in their journey through adulthood. (Hebrew)
2. **Summary of my Activities and Future Plans**

I have devoted my professional life to identifying and providing necessary supports in order to assist adults with disabilities to live a meaningful life. My professional field experience in working directly with adults with disabilities in an important source and inspiration for my academic work. I combine theory, research, teaching and learning with the actual hands-on knowledge and insights I gain from personal involvement with adults with developmental disabilities.

It is my belief that the main challenge in providing the necessary supports to adults with disabilities is to try to help them identify their desires and wishes, choose their unique way, and find the means to make their voices heard in order to achieve their goals.

For more than 22 years, I have been involved in practice in helping adults with disabilities to improve their quality of life. As a staff member, at Kfar Tikva, a rural residential community for adults with disabilities, I initiated and directed several innovative programs. One such program was the development of a unique model of satellite apartments for adults with disabilities outside the sheltered environment they were used to. Another program I carried out was the inclusion of adults with Autism, in Kfar Tikvas’ community, which until then was mainly a home for adults with cognitive disabilities.

I furthermore took part in the establishment of a new center in Kfar Tikva in cooperation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (the 'Magid' institute). The idea was to develop knowledge and field training programs for the benefit of people with disabilities. The center run for the first time in Israel a program in psychotherapy in the area of cognitive and developmental disabilities. I joined the course leading to a Certificate in Integrative psychotherapy.

Concurrently, I took a course at the University of Haifa to become a field instructor, and started supervising social work students in their field studies in the area of cognitive and developmental disabilities. Indeed, a couple of years later, as already a lecturer in the Zefat Academic College, I introduced there for the first time studies in the area of developmental disabilities. In this way, I contributed to the upgrade of social work studies to include the area of cognitive and developmental disabilities as an important area for theory development, research and professional knowledge.

During the years of my involvement with adults with intellectual and development disabilities, I realized how little knowledge exists among service providers working in the field. This gave me the incentive to return to academic studies and embark on my Ph.D.

In collaboration with Prof. Shunit Reiter, I have recently founded an academic center dedicated to conducting research and field studies with the goal of improving the quality of life of adults with disabilities, by helping them live a more autonomous and meaningful life. The center in involved in international research, along with running conferences, and disseminating professional publications in the area of adults with disabilities.

Future plans -

I wish to continue and strengthen the links between theory and practice, and thereby improve interventions and support systems available to adults with disabilities. By conducting research, I plan to contribute to the development of theory regarding:

* The challenges facing adults with disabilities in their life course as adults
* The designing of a holistic model of support for assisting individuals with disabilities to shape their own lives and experience a meaningful life

Furthermore, I plan to expand on the implications of a humanistic orientation to:

* The role definition of support providers
* The development of intervention programs
* The professional training of students and support staff