

CURRICULUM VITAE**1. Personal Details**

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2. Higher Education**Undergraduate and Graduate Studies**

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

3. Academic Ranks and Tenure in Institutions of Higher Education

Years	Name of Institution and Department	Rank/Position
2004–2012	University of Haifa, Israel: School of Social Work	Supervisor of Practical Training in Social Work
2010–2014	Kfar Tikva, in cooperation with the University of Haifa, Israel: Shiluv Center, School of Psychotherapy	Teaching Fellow
2011–2014	Tel-Hai College, Israel: Department of Education	Teaching Fellow
2013–2015	Yezreel Valley Academic College, Israel: Department of Education	Teaching Fellow
2015–2017	Zefat Academic College, Israel: Departments of Social Work & Multidisciplinary Studies, Special Education and Psychology	Teaching Fellow
2017–	Zefat Academic College, Israel: Departments of Social Work & Multidisciplinary Studies, Special Education and Psychology	Lecturer
2021-2023	University of Haifa, Israel: Department of Special Education, Faculty of Education	Research Fellow

4. Offices in Academic Administration

Years	Name of Institution and Department	Role
2016–2017	Zefat Academic College, Israel	Department of Social Work, Status Committee, Member
2017–2018	Zefat Academic College, Israel	Department of Social Work, Committee for practical training, Member
2017–2019	Zefat Academic College, Israel	Department of Social Work, Second Year Studies, Student and Curriculum Coordinator
2018–	Zefat Academic College, Israel	College Teaching Committee, Member

5. Scholarly Positions and Activities outside the University

Membership in Professional Associations

Years	Membership
2017–2019	IASSIDD: International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities.
2017–2019	IASSIDD: Special Interest Group — Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities

Responsibilities in Editing Journals

Years	Membership
2018–2020	<i>Issues in Special Education and Inclusion- ISIT</i> (Hebrew), Volume 30: Special issue, Holistic Supports in the Life Cycles of Persons with Disabilities, Guest Editor
2021–	<i>Issues in Special Education and Inclusion- ISIT</i> (Hebrew), Associate Editor

Activities outside the University

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

Evaluator of research proposals

Years	Activities outside the University
2021–	External evaluator of research proposals submitted to Keren Shalem-Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel

6. Active Participation in Scholarly Conferences

a. International Conferences

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

b. Organization of Conferences or Sessions

Date	Name of Conference	Place
April 26, 2019	<p>“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.</p> <p>Organizer and Chairperson of conference Head of academic advisory committee</p>	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Kiryat Tivon, Israel
November 11–12, & 14, 2019	<p>“Daring to Dream” Introduction to an innovative intervention tool aimed at assisting adults with disabilities to enjoy a fuller life—specially invited guest speaker Prof. Diane Bryen, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.</p> <p>Organizer and Chairperson of conference and two workshops Head of academic advisory committee</p>	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Kiryat Tivon, Israel in collaboration with Zefat Academic College, Israel

c. Local Conferences

Date	Name of Conference	Place	Subject of Lecture/Discussion	Role
February 4–5, 2014	The 6th Israeli Interdisciplinary Conference on Qualitative Research: Qualitative Research in Action	Ben-Gurion University, Israel	Characteristics and Implications of Couple Relationships from the Perspective of People with Intellectual Disabilities Living as Couples	Oral presentation
November 12, 2014	Conference of the Ministry of Welfare	Ben-Gurion University, Israel	Paradigm Shifts and Changes in the Intervention Programs for People with Disabilities	Oral presentation
February 6, 2018	The 8th Israeli Interdisciplinary Conference on Qualitative Research: Between the Personal and the Political	Ben-Gurion University, Israel	Accessibility to Couple Relationships as an Illustration of the Right of People with IDD to Live Full and Meaningful Lives	Oral presentation
February 27, 2018	Macro Matters: The Second Conference on Macro Practice in Social Work	Zefat Academic College, Israel	Between the Social Paradigm and the Humanist Conception: The Influence of Micro and Macro Practice on the Quality of	Oral presentation

			Life of People with Disabilities	
February 27, 2018	Macro Matters: The Second Conference on Macro Practice in Social Work	Zefat Academic College, Israel	The Model of the Cycle of Internalized Learning (CIL) in Adulthood, Implemented with Adults with Disabilities	Oral presentation
April 1, 2019	Down Syndrome-International Conference 2019	Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel	Intimate Relationships in the Lives of Adults with Disabilities	Oral presentation (Invited)
April 1, 2019	Down Syndrome-International Conference 2019	Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel	Life Skills Relevant for Intimate Relationships in the Lives of Adults with Disabilities	Workshop (Invited)
November 11, 2019	“Daring to Dream”	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Tivon, Israel in collaboration with Zefat Academic College, Israel	Support and Resources in the Life Journey of Adults with Disabilities	Oral presentation (Invited)

7. Invited Lectures (Other than in Scholarly Conferences)

a. In Israel

Year	Name of Forum	Place of Lecture	Subject of Lecture	Role
2011	Department of Education	Tel-Hai College, Israel	Couple Relationships of People with Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2015	Department of Education	Beit Berl College, Israel	Couple Relationships from the Perspective of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2016	Heads of Special Education Departments: Forum, Ministry of Education	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Israel	The Implications of Challenges in Adulthood on Special Education in Childhood and Adolescence	Invited Speaker

2016	Department of Occupational Therapy	University of Haifa, Israel	Approaches Throughout History as Guidelines for Supporting People with Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2018	Office of Social Services, Tiberius	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Israel	Where do We Go From Here? Attitudes Towards Adults with Disabilities: Past, Present and Future	Invited Speaker
2018	Ministry of Welfare: Department of Rehabilitation.	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Israel	Assistance and Supports by Service Providers of Adults with IDD	Invited Speaker
2018	Kfar Tikva: service support staff	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Israel	Micro and Macro Practice: Intervention Strategies for Assisting Adults with Disabilities	Seminar
2018	Parents and siblings of adults with IDD	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Israel	From Theory to Practice: Changes in Attitudes and Support Strategies Towards Adults with Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2018	Israel Ministry of Welfare-The National Forum of Social Workers in Residential Services for adults with Disabilities	Center Stage, Ganei Tikva, Israel	Support and Guidance of Adults with Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2019	Department of Education	Oranim College, Israel	Couple Relationships from the Perspective of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, their Parents and the Support Staff Working with Them	Invited Speaker
2019	Department of Behavioral Sciences	Yezreel Valley College, Israel	Couple Relationships of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2019	Department of Education	Western Galilee College, Israel	"A Good Reason to Get Up in the Morning" — Couple Relationships of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2020	Kochav Hazafon Association	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic Research, Israel	Support and Resources in the Life Journey of Adults with Disabilities	Invited Speaker
2020	Department of Education	Western Galilee College, Israel	Couple Relationships of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities	Invited Speaker

8. Research Grants

a. Grants Awarded

Role in Research	Other Researchers	Title	Funded by	Amount	Years
CO-PI	Prof. Shunit Reiter (PI)	Couple Relationships from the Perspective of People with Intellectual Disabilities Living as Couples: A comparison of quality of life and self-esteem in couple relationships versus relationships between friends	Keren Shalem-Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel	NIS 68,000	2010
CO-PI	Dr. Nirit Karni (PI)	The Contribution of Intervention Program based on the “The Cycle of Internalized Learning” for Coping with Verbal Violence and Improving the Quality of Life of People with IDD Living in Different Home Settings	Keren Shalem-Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel	NIS 100,000	2017
CO-PI	Prof. Shunit Reiter (PI); Dr. Nirit Karni (CO-PI)	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	Keren Shalem-Foundation for Development of Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Local Councils in Israel	NIS 100,000	2017

b. Submission of Research Proposals – Pending

Role in Research	Other Researchers	Title	Funded by	Amount	Years
PI	Prof. Shunit Reiter (CO-PI)	A New Model of Support for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Defining the Role of Service Providers Based on a Holistic Perception	Israel Science Foundation (ISF)	NIS 332,000	2020

c. Internal Grants Awarded

Role in Research	Other Researchers	Title	Funded by	Amount	Years
PI		Establishing and Maintaining Couple-hood as Perceived by Couples with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Implications for Provision of Supports	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 2,500	2016
PI		Attitudes of Service Providers Regarding Couple Relationships of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 21,300	2017
PI		Attitudes of Parents Regarding Couple-hood of their Offspring with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Implications for the Provision of Support	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 22,300	2017
PI		Transitions in the Lives of Adults with Disabilities: A Model Based on the Humanistic Approach for Providing Guidance and Support	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 17,800	2018
PI		Attitudes of Service Providers and Parents Regarding Sexuality and Parenthood of Adults with Intellectual Disability as a Basis for their Role Perception and Conduct	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 13,000	2019
PI		Book (Editor): <i>Looking Beyond- Supporting Persons with Disabilities in their Journey through Adulthood</i>	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 8,000	2019
PI		Book (Editor): <i>Looking Beyond-</i>	Kfar Tikva Center for Academic	NIS 40,000	2019

		<i>Supporting Persons with Disabilities in their Journey through Adulthood</i>	Research, Israel		
PI	Diane Bryen, Prof. Emerita Temple University Philadelphia, PA, U.S.	The Implementation of the “Daring to Dream” Intervention Program in Israel and its Implications on the Role Perception of Service Providers Supporting Adults with Disabilities	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 10,000	2020
PI		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	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 3,500	2020
PI		Insights of school graduates volunteers during their service year experience with adults with disabilities, regarding their vision (macro-practice) and their role (micro-practice).	Zefat Academic College, Israel	NIS 13,500	2021

d. Grants for Academic Courses

Year	Course	Funded by	Year	Amount (in NIS)
2017-	Initiator and Lecturer: A one-year advanced academic course on the Supports Provided to Persons with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities. Funded by Keren 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	

9. Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

2016- The Academic College of Zefat, Israel, the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching (NIS 10,000)

2002- The Deans’ Award for Academic Excellence, MA, University of Haifa, Israel.

10. Teaching

a. Courses Taught in Recent Years

Years	Name of Course	Type of Course	Level
2010–2014	Developmental Psychology	Lecture	B.A.
2010–2015	Introduction to Psychology	Lecture	B.A.
2010–2014	Intellectual Disability as a Unique Challenge for Intervention	Lecture	B.A.
2012–2014	Introduction to Special Education	Lecture	B.A.
2013–2015	The Families of Children and Adults with Disabilities	Seminar	B.A.
2013–2018	Behavior Analysis and Modification in Special Education	Lecture	B.A.
2013–2018	Acquiring Life Skills in Special Education	Lecture	B.A.
2015–	Intervention Seminar: Providing the Necessary Supports for Persons with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities	Seminar	B.A.
2015–	Methods of Intervention in Social Work	Lecture	B.A.
2015–	Practical Training in Social Work	Supervision	B.A.
2016–	Introduction to Special Education: From Mainstreaming to Inclusion	Lecture	B.A.
2016–	Introduction to Intellectual and Developmental Disability	Lecture	B.A.
2017–	Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder	Lecture	B.A.
2019–2020	Supporting the Life Journey of Adults with Disabilities	Lecture	B.A.

Miscellaneous

Kfar Tikva - A Rehabilitative Community and Home for People with Disabilities, Israel	
Years	Project
2000–	Establishment and management of Kfar Tikva's community living facilities and services
2014	Establishment of an innovative residential project for adults with autism in Kfar Tikva
2017–	Foundation of an Academic Center dedicated to conducting research and field studies related to adults with disabilities

Eran Mebel - Architectural Office, Israel	
Years	Project
2015–2016	Professional consultant for an architectural office planning a new village in the Lower Galilee to serve as an inclusive community for people with and without disabilities

11. PUBLICATIONS

Ph.D. Dissertation

1. *The Characteristics, Meanings and Implications of Couple 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
2. 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)
3. 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
4. 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)
5. 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

6. **Neuman, R.** (2020). Parents' perceptions regarding couple relationships of their adult children with intellectual disabilities. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 33(2), 310-320.
SJR: Q1 (in education) I.F: 1.769

7. **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 (five-years I.F: 1.119)

8. **Neuman, R.** (excepted for publication, 2021). Supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their adult aspiration for sexual relationships and parenthood. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*.
SJR: Q1 (in general studies) I.F: 2.405 (2019) (five-years I.F: 2.269)

Sent for Publication

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

2. **Neuman, R.,** Reiter, S. & Karni, N. (2020). Expressions of a humanistic orientation among service providers supporting adults with Intellectual Disabilities

Edited Books

1. **Neuman, R.** (Ed). (2021). Looking Beyond- Supporting Persons with Disabilities in their Journey through Adulthood. Even Yehuda: Amazia Publishing House, Israel. (Hebrew). (489 pages).

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. (Eds.), *Current Issues in Inclusion of Students and Adults with Special Needs in Israel: A Collection of Studies*. (109–132). Tel Aviv: The Mofet Institute. (Hebrew)

2. **Neuman, R.** (2021). Model of holistic supports for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. R. Neuman (Ed.), *Looking Beyond-Supporting Persons with Disabilities in their Journey through Adulthood*. (pp. 103-131). Even Yehuda: Amazia Publishing House, Israel. (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 couple relationships from the perspective of people with intellectual disabilities living as couples. A comparison of quality of life and self-esteem in couple 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*, (pp. 1-167). (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*, (pp. 1-61). (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*, (pp. 1-150). (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 assistance 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*, (pp. 1-64). (Hebrew)

Other Publications

1. **Neuman, R.** (2018). Accessibility to couple relationships among adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Homesb: 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)

In Preparation

Articles

1. **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.
2. **Neuman, R.** Young volunteers involved with adults with disabilities: a research regarding their macro vision and micro practice as supporters.
3. 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 assistance in improving the quality of life of adults with intellectual disabilities residing in supportive living arrangements.

12. Summary of my Activities and Future Plans

I have devoted my professional life to identifying and providing necessary supports to assist adults with disabilities to have meaningful lives. My professional field experience is an important source and inspiration for my academic work, enabling me to combine theory, research, teaching and learning with actual hands-on knowledge and insights gained from working closely with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

It is my belief that the main challenges in providing the necessary supports to adults with disabilities is helping them identify their aspirations and needs, choose their individual paths in lifeway, and find the means to make their voices heard in order to achieve their goals.

For over 23 years, I have been involved in practice to help 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, including a unique model of satellite apartments for adults with disabilities outside the sheltered environment to which they were accustomed. Another initiative I directed was the inclusion of adults with autism in Kfar Tikva's community, which, until then, had served primarily as a home for adults with cognitive disabilities.

I also participated in establishing a new center in Kfar Tikva in cooperation with the Magid Institute of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The purpose was to develop knowledge and field training programs for the benefit of people with disabilities. This new center was the first in Israel to offer a program in psychotherapy in the area of cognitive and developmental disabilities. I also participated in the course, from which I obtained a Certificate in Integrative Psychotherapy.

Concurrently, I took a course at the University of Haifa to become a field instructor, and began supervising social work students in their field studies in the area of cognitive and developmental disabilities. Indeed, a couple of years later, while already a lecturer in the Zefat Academic College, department of social work, I introduced a new course of studies in the area of developmental disabilities, thereby contributing to the enrichment of social work studies by including the field 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 developmental disabilities, I have come to realize how little knowledge service providers working in the field have. This gave me the incentive to return to academic studies and embark on my Ph.D. to help fill that gap.

In collaboration with Prof. Shunit Reiter, I initiated in Kfar Tikvah an academic center dedicated to conducting research and field studies with the goal of improving the quality of life of adults with disabilities. In addition to conducting international research, the center also holds conferences and disseminates professional publications in the field of adults with disabilities.

Future Plans:

My vision is to 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 meaningful life journeys.

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.