

# NOAM LAPIDOT-LEFLER, PHD

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## 1. Academic Degrees

**2006-2009: Ph.D.** in Counseling and Human Development, awarded by The Faculty of Education, University of Haifa, Israel (with distinction, *summa cum laude*).

**2001-2004: M.A.** in Special Education, awarded by The Faculty of Education, University of Haifa, Israel (with distinction, *magna cum laude*).

**1999-2001: B.A.** in Psychology (honors program), The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, Israel (with distinction, *magna cum laude*).

## 2. Academic Appointments

**Sep 2015- Nov 2016:** Visiting scholar at the at the Department of Educational & Counseling Psychology, and Special Education, Faculty of Education, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

**2014 - Current:** Leave of absence, Tenure, Department of Special Education, The Faculty of Education, Oranim College for Education.

**2014 - 2015:** Leave of absence, Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, Israel.

**2011 - 2014:** Lecturer, Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, Israel.

**2010 - 2014:** Tenure Lecturer, Department of Special Education, The Faculty of Education, Oranim College for Education.

**2009 - 2015:** Teaching Fellow, Department of Education, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2010 - 2013:** Teaching Fellow, M.A. Program for School Counseling, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2009 - 2011:** Teaching Fellow, Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**1999 - 2004:** Teaching assistant, Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

## 3. Offices in Academic Administration

**2012 - 2014:** A partner member of the Postdoctoral group meetings.

**2011 - Current:** Research Advisor to M.A. Students, Research on Bullying and Harassment, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2012 - Current:** Research Fellow of the Action Research Center for Social Justice, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2011 - 2014:** Coordinator of Practicum in Education (Community Education or Special Needs Education), The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

#### **4. Academic Activities**

**2013:** External reviewer for the refereed journal *Journal of Media Psychology*.

**2011 - 2013:** External reviewer for the refereed journal '*Computers in Human Behavior*'.

#### **5. Awards and Scholarships**

2012-2013 –Award for Distinguished Lecturer Achievements, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

2011-2012 - Award for Distinguished Lecturer Achievements, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

2009 –Award for Excellence upon completing Ph.D. degree, Authority of Advanced Studies, University of Haifa: 'with distinction, *summa cum laude*'.

2004 - Recipient of the Dean's List Award for Excellence upon completing M.A. degree, Faculty of Education, University of Haifa: 'with distinction, *magna cum laude*'.

2001 - Recipient of the Dean's List Award for Excellence upon completing B.A. degree, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

#### **6. Professional Development Programs and Courses**

**2013 - 2014:** Teaching Diploma, Gordon College of Education, Haifa, Israel.

**May 2011-November 2014:** Participate in a Post-doc peer group that meets monthly to develop creative approaches to research and teaching.

**2010:** Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Teachstone Method, University of Haifa, Oranim College.

**2002 - 2003:** "Leo Baeck Educational Leadership" Program, in the Leo-Baeck Education Center, Haifa.

**1999 - 2001:** "The track for empowerment of young educational leadership", in the Midrasha: Oranim College of Education.

7. **Professional or Public Positions (past and present)**

**2004 - 2009:** Coordinator of northern branch of the project “Assisting Families of Special Needs Children”, part of the JDC-Israel Ashalim (an NGO) program, Ashalim.

**2004 - 2007:** Director of projects for children and youth at risk, Northstar (NGO).

**2002 - 2003:** Advisor for Jewish studies in Lokii Center, Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa.  
Teacher and curriculum developer.

**2000 - 2002:** Support for students with special needs, teaching, counseling and support.

8. **Teaching experience**

**2012 - 2014:**

- "From Rhetoric to Practice: Promoting the Social Inclusion of People with Special Needs in the Community". Syllabus: The course combines social activism as a special course of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council of Higher Education in Israel. The goal of this course is to promote the social inclusion of people with special needs in the community by developing social projects that empower them and their families. Both students and people with special needs from the community will actively participate in the course. During the first half of the course, participants are provided with theory and research concerning the relationship between people with special needs and society in general. During the second half of the course, course participants work in teams to design, plan, and implement their projects. Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, BA undergraduate course.

**2009 - 2014:**

- "Introduction to Special Education", B.A. undergraduate course, Department of Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Education, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.
- "Introduction to the Educational System in Israel", B.A. undergraduate course, Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.
- "Basic Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis".
- "Philosophy of Education".
- "Practicum in Education" (compulsory course), Department of Education, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

- "Counseling Work Aspects in the Inclusion of the Child with Special Needs", Educational Counseling Program. M.A. Graduate course.

**2010 – 2014:**

- "Pedagogical Training: "Didactics in Special Education", Department of Special Education, The Faculty of Education, Oranim College for Education.
- "Class Navigation in Special Education", B.Ed. and BA undergraduate course.
- "Training - Principles and Procedures of Behavior Analysis and Their Application", B.Ed. and BA undergraduate course.
- "Training - Functional Assessment Procedures and Intervention Strategies", Seminar, B.Ed. and B.A. undergraduate course.

**2010 - 2011:**

- "Classroom Management (workshop)", Department of Education and teaching in the primary grades, Faculty of Education. B.Ed. and BA undergraduate course, Oranim College for Education.

**2009 – 2012:**

- "Community Resources for the Benefit of the Individual". Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2009 – 2010:**

- "Field Experience - A ", Department of Behavioral Sciences, Department of Psychology and Department of Education, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.
- "Inclusion of the Special Needs Child in a Regular Class", Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley. "Applied Behavior Analysis", Department of Human Services, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**9. Research Topics**

- The Quality of Life of People with Disabilities and special needs; Special Education and Classroom Management; Internet Psychology; Aggression; Bullying; Cyberbullying.
- Study of aggressive behavior in diverse educational environments, specifically, in mainstream education and special education: The phenomenon of harassment in schools in Israel and the phenomenon of harassment among students with mental deficiencies in special education schools.

- Study of the phenomenon of the online disinhibition effect.
- Action research.
- My research focuses on two major fields: People with special needs and Internet psychology.

## **10. Research development**

### **Sept 2015 – Present:**

Visiting scholar/researcher at The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada:

A member in the SEED Lab: The Social Emotional Education and Development (SEED) Research laboratory. The SEED lab engaged in research about the social and academic functioning, with the goal of understanding social developmental processes in order to support children and youth in school settings. The SEED lab in research that benefits the development of children, youth, families and communities. It involves approximately 15-20 graduate students who meet regularly throughout the academic year and who collaborate on research and knowledge translation/mobilization efforts related to social and emotional learning in schools. Principal Investigator: Dr. Shelley Hymel.

### **Sept 2015 – Sept 2016:**

A member in the DCTech Lab: The Developmental Change and Technology (DCTech) Research laboratory. Engaged in research about children's and adolescents' development as it occurs within an increasingly technological world. It involves approximately 10 graduate students who meet regularly throughout the academic year. Principal Investigator: Dr. Jennifer D. Shapka.

## **11. Research Grants**

**October 2012:** Awarded a two-year research 124,000 NIS grant for an action research that will evaluate and accompany a decentralized day center, which emphasize the inclusion of people with disabilities in the community. I am the leading researcher accompanied by Prof. Victor Friedman and Dr. Daniella Arieli. The grant was funded by JDC-Israel and awarded by the Center for Research Action and Social Justice.

## **12. Membership in Academic Committees**

**2011-2013:** Departmental Colloquium Coordinator, Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, Israel.

**2010 - 2013:** Member of Admissions Committee on Exceptional Cases, Department of Behavioral Sciences, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, Israel.

**13. Organization of Key Meetings**

**11/06/2013:** Organizer of the event concluding the course "From Rhetoric to Practice: Promoting the Social Inclusion of People with Special Needs in the Community": Reviewing the course and its outcomes. The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**02/06/2013:** Organizer of the learning meeting for the decentralized day center program for people with disabilities in Baka Al Garbia. With participants from JDC Israel, Ministry of Social Affairs, Municipality of Baka Al Garbia, the operating association, people with physical disabilities and their families, the action research team, and the Center for Action Research and Social Justice, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**19/03/2002:** Organizer of the conference: "Crossing Hands", dealing with violence in educational institutions from a community-based, systematic perspective, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

## List of Publications

### **1. Thesis and Dissertation**

**2009:** Ph.D. dissertation: An examination of the impact of anonymity, invisibility, and lack of eye-contact on inducing the online disinhibition effect, University of Haifa, Israel, Supervised by Prof. Azy Barak.

**2005:** M.A. thesis: Harassment and bullying among students with intellectual disabilities in special education schools: the differences between bullies and victims in terms of social adjustment and social skills, University of Haifa, Israel, Supervised by Prof. Shunit Reiter.

### **2. Papers in Refereed Journals**

Lapidot-Lefler, N. & Bar, H. The power to reduce unwanted behaviors by observing the positive behavior and strengthening them: Examining efficiency of Differential Reinforcement strengthening procedures with children with ADD and ADHD Accepted for publication in *Issues in Special Education and Rehabilitation* [Hebrew].

Shapka, D. J., Onditi, H. Z., Collie, R. J. & Lapidot-Lefler, N. (In Press). Cyberbullying and Cybervictimization Within a Cross Cultural Context: A Study of Canadian and Tanzanian Adolescents. *Child Development, special section on Contemporary Mobile Technology and Child and Adolescent Development*.

Dolev-Cohen, M., & Lapidot-Lefler, N. (2017). Sickness & health in cyberspace: Online bullying Vs. traditional bullying among Israeli teens. *Dvarim, 9*, 95-114. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Hosri, H. (2016). Cyberbullying in a diverse society: comparing Jewish and Arab adolescents in Israel through the lenses of individualistic versus collectivist cultures. *Social Psychology of Education, 19*, 1-17.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Hosri, H. (2016). Cyberbullying among Arab adolescent school students in Israel by gender, and grade level. *Hyeotz Hchinuchi (School counselor), 19*, 198-218. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Barak, A. (2015). The benign online disinhibition effect: Could situational factors induce self-disclosure and pro-social behaviors? *Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace, 9*, article 3.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., Friedman, V. J., Arieli, D. (2015). Creating a space for the voices of people with disabilities. *Journal of Israel Studies in Language and Society: Interdisciplinary Electronic Journal of the Israeli Association for the Study of Language and Society*, 12, 218-236. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., Friedman, V. J., Arieli, D., Haj, N., Sykes, I., & Kais, N. (2015). Social space and field as constructs for evaluating social inclusion. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 146, 33–43.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Dolev-Cohen, M. (2014). Differences in social skills among cyberbullies, cybervictims, cyberbystanders, and those not involved in cyberbullying. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Behaviour*, 2, article 149.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Dolev-Cohen, M. (2014). Comparing cyberbullying and school bullying among school students: prevalence, gender, and grade level differences. *Social Psychology of Education*, 18, 1-16.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Barak, A. (2012). Effects of anonymity, invisibility, and lack of eye-contact on toxic online disinhibition. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 28, 434-443.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Bishara, A. (2010). Volunteering in the Arab society in Israel as a tool for improving quality of life. *Et Hasade (Pen field)*, 4, 30-34. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N. & Reiter, S. (2007). The phenomenon of harassment among students with mental deficiencies in special education schools: The differences between bullies and harassment victims in terms of social adaptation and social skill level. *Issues in Special Education and Rehabilitation*, 22, 51-63. [Hebrew].

Reiter, S., & Lapidot-Lefler, N. (2007). Bullying among special education students with intellectual disabilities: Differences in social adjustment and social skills. *Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities*, 45, 174-181.

### **3. Chapters**

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Kais, N. (in press). Changing the academic social space: Learning from success in an academic course which promotes the inclusion of people with special needs in the community. "Academy-Community Partnerships in Israel" [Hebrew].



Friedman, V. J., Sykes, I., Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Haj, N. (2016). Social Space as a Generative Image for Dialogic Organization Development. In *Research in Organizational Change and Development*, 24 (pp. 113-144). Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

#### **4. Papers Submitted in Refereed Journals**

Dolev-Cohen, M., & Lapidot-Lefler, N. Class Climate as Reflected in the Classroom Environment and in a Class WhatsApp Group Environment. Submitted for possible publication in *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*.

#### **Scientific Reports**

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Barak, A., (2012). Psychological aspects of Internet use: The online disinhibition effect. Guide for professionals, caregivers, and educators (The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, Israel) [Hebrew].

Rolider, A., Lapidot, N. & Levy, R. (2006). The bullying phenomenon In Israeli schools. Research report (160 p.). Submitted to the Ministry of Education in Israel [Hebrew].

#### **5. Papers Presented at Peer Reviewed International Conferences**

Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Global Explorations of Cyberbullying and Cybervictimization: Cyberbullying, cybervictimization, and cyberbystander behaviour among Jewish and Arab adolescents in Israel*. Presented at The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Conference: "2016 Special Topic on Technology and Media in Children's Development", Irvine, California, USA, October 27 - 30, 2016.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Dolev-Cohen, M. *Students' Sense of safety in the class WhatsApp a group that includes the homeroom teacher*. Presented at The 19th Conference of the IOP Conference: "Professional Development for Educators", The Faculty of Education, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 14 May, 2016.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Hosri, H., *Israeli Adolescents in Cyberspace: Comparing Cyberbullying Between Jewish and Arab Adolescents in Israel*. Paper presented at the 60th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 6-10 March, 2016.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., Gur, T., Goldner, L., & Shoham, N., *The use of the CLASS model in training special education teachers*. Paper presented at the 6th International Conference on

Teacher Education on the subject of "Changing Reality Through Education", Jerusalem, Israel, 2-4 July, 2013.

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Barak, A., *The effects of online disinhibition - Lack of boundaries facilitates human behavior in cyberspace*. Paper presented at the Second EastBordNet Conference on the subject of "Relocating borders: A comparative approach", Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, 11-13 January, 2013.

Reiter, S., Bryen, D.N., Shachar, I., & Lapidot, N., *Ending the silence: Adolescents with developmental disabilities as victims of crimes*. Paper presented at the Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress ISEC, Glasgow, Scotland, 1-4 August, 2005.

Reiter, S., Bryen, D.N., Shachar, I., & Lapidot, N., *Adolescents with intellectual disabilities as victims of abuse*. Paper presented at the Forging New Partnerships for New Challenges through Research, Education, and Service, Annual Meeting & Conference AUCD, Washington DC. U.S.A, October 29–November 1, 2006.

## **6. Papers Presented at National Conferences**

Dolev-Cohen, M., & Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Social skills of the cyberbully, the cybervictim and the bystanders in Cyberspace*. Presented at The Scientific Conference of educational counselors – 2016, on the subject of "In perpetual motion: Educational counseling in new spaces", The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, 13 April, 2016. [Hebrew].

Dolev-Cohen, M., & Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Students' Sense of safety in the class WhatsApp a group that includes the homeroom teacher*. Presented at The 3rd Conference of the Kinneret Conference for children Safety on the subject of "research and practical aspects of the phenomenon of bullying among children and youth", Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee, Jordan Valley, 6 April, 2016. [Hebrew].

Friedman, V.J., Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Ariely, D. *Transitional Space: Changing the rules of the game and expanding the boundaries of possible*. Presented at The 46th Conference of the Israeli Sociological Association on the subject of "What seen from here do not seen from there: between geographic and social peripherals", Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee, Jordan Valley, 24-25 February, 2015. [Hebrew].

Dolev-Cohen, M., & Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Social skills of the bully, the victim and bystanders in cyberspace*. Presented at The 16th Scientific Annual Conference on Research, Study and Creativity, Oranim Academic College, Tivon, Israel, February 16th, 2015. [Hebrew].

Stern, A., Daniel, N., Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Friedman, V.J. *The development of the "Trails to Community" program for people with disabilities: Analysis of the personal and professional growth of persons with disabilities, families, and professionals*. Presented at The 9th National Rehabilitation Conference on the subject of "Rehabilitation — Convention, Beliefs, and Fulfillment", Kfar Hamaccabiah, Ramat Gan, 3-4 March, 2014. [Hebrew].

Dolev-Cohen, M., & Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Cyberbullying and bullying among adolescents in Israel*. Presented at The 15th Scientific Annual Conference on Research, Study and Creativity, Oranim Academic College, Tivon, Israel, February 10th, 2014. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., Ariely, D., Hajj, N., Kais, N., & Sykes, I. *Promoting social inclusion of people with severe disabilities through action research and field theory*. Presented at the Sixth Israeli Conference on Interdisciplinary Qualitative Research on the subject of "Qualitative Research in Action," Marcus Family Campus, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, February 4-6, 2014. [Hebrew].

Tavari Awad, S., Brenner, N., Cohen, J. & Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Space of breathing and soul: Creating an "enclave" through action research for the advancement of personal and professional transformation of colleagues in academia*. Sixth Israeli Conference on Interdisciplinary Qualitative Research on the subject of "Qualitative Research in Action," Marcus Family Campus, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, February 4-6, 2014. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Kais, N. *Learning from success in the academic course "From rhetoric to practice: Promoting the social inclusion of people with special needs in the community", What were we able to learn?* Presented at the conference titled "Learning from Success: Academy–Community Partnerships", Belgium House, Givat Ram Campus, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, October 9, 2013. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Friedman, V.J. *Action research and the evaluation of model development of a decentralized services day center for people with disabilities*. Presented at the 12th Conference of the AYELET "Towards an era of Social Responsibility - The

Evaluators Evaluated and the Public", Davidson Institute of Science Education, Weizmann Center, Rehovot, April 3, 2013. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Gur, T. *Aspects in the use of the CLASS model in pedagogical training and teaching practice in the department of special education*. Seminar on "CLASS – Theory to Practice: Presented at a Staff-training Meeting of the Faculty of Education," Tivon, Oranim Academic College, February 27, 2013. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Barak, A. *Intimacy on the Internet: Investigation of the factors influencing the positive products of online disinhibition*. Presented at The 13th Scientific Annual Conference on Research, Study and Creativity, Oranim Academic College, Tivon, Israel, February 20th, 2012. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., & Barak, A. *Investigation the effects of anonymity, invisibility, and lack of eye-contact on toxic online disinhibition*. Presented at The 12th Scientific annual conference on Research, Study and Creativity, Oranim Academic College, Tivon, Israel, January 31th, 2011. [Hebrew].

## 7. **Invited Lectures**

Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis - ABA*. Two-training sessions for communications center managers in PERACH program, the Davidson Institute of Science Education, Weizmann Institute, January 30 and February 28, 2013. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Surf into violence - Violence of adolescents on the Internet*. Workshop presented at a conference on "Systems Approaches to Treat Adolescent Violence: Causes, Diagnosis, Intervention", The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, January 18, 2012. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Characteristics of online communications: Challenges and possibilities in online mentoring*. Lecture presented to the Nahshon Program Coordinators, Educational Technology Center, Tel - Aviv, September 18, 2011. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N., *Aggression and intimacy in the Internet*. Lecture presented at the conference "Remote or Distant Mentoring", Davidson Institute of Science Education, Weizmann Institute, September 2, 2010. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Losing the brakes in the information highway: The influence of situational factors on the online disinhibition effect*. Lecture presented at the Research Fair VI, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, May 26, 2010. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Situational factors and their influence on removing of inhibitions in cyberspace*. Lecture presented at the conference: "Love Online", The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley, January 13, 2010. [Hebrew].

Lapidot-Lefler, N. *Examining the influence of anonymity, invisibility and lack of contact-eye on the online disinhibition effect*. Conference presented upon completing the Ph.D., Department of Education, University of Haifa. May 14, 2009. [Hebrew].

## **8. Supervision of Students' Projects -- Undergraduate and Graduate Students**

**2012 – 2014:** Lital Miler, *The phenomenon of harassment among teenagers: Relationship between the level of negative mood and bullying*. Supervisor of final thesis project, Graduate Program in Educational Counseling, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2012 – 2014:** Nina Gorodezky, *The phenomenon of harassment in school: Gender differences in the relationship between self-esteem, and bullying*. Supervisor of final thesis project, Graduate Program in Educational Counseling, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2012 – 2013:** Hagar Kelly, *The phenomenon of harassment among students with learning disabilities: The relationship between the level of social skills and bullying among students with and without learning disabilities*. Supervisor of final thesis project, Graduate Program in Educational Counseling, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

**2012 – 2013:** Hanan Hosri, *The cyberbullying phenomenon among high school students in the Arab sector: Cyberbullying among Israeli Arab youth by gender and academic achievement*. Supervisor of final thesis project, Graduate Program in Educational Counseling, The Max Stern Academic College of Yezreel Valley.

## **9. Interviews and Publications in the International Media**

Moyer, M.W. (2012). Eye Contact Quells Online Hostility. *Scientific American Mind*, Sep/Oct 2012, p10.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=rudeness-on-the-internet>

Interview for CBC Radio (Canadian radio) on the subject: "Toxic online disinhibition effect" research. December 2012.

<http://www.cbc.ca/spark/episodes/2012/12/21/201-eye-contact-unboxing-raspberry-pi/>

## **10. Personal Outlook**

I believe in the human spirit, in its basic kindness, and in humanity for its weaknesses and strengths.

In my works I find the space to reflect on the humanity in each and every one of us, guided by a deep belief that it can be developed and nurtured - whether in a child in a special education class, a student in the process of teacher training, in the education system in Israel, or in our society in general.

Part of my professional vision and mission is to foster students' personal growth by means of a development process, in the hope that future teachers will succeed in supporting the development of students in special education classes and assist the education system with its various needs.

I believe that there are tools that can be taught and handed to educators and caregivers – that can bridge between the rhetoric and practice. Hence, it is possible to teach caregivers to be empathetic and assertive, as well as to feel empowered by their interactions with the other person (for example, in the interaction between a teacher and a student).

I believe that actions that we take resonate throughout our society, and that open communication, an attentive ear, and a personal connection will make us wonderful teachers and able leaders in the paths of our own lives.