

Sexuality in Close Relationships Lab

Directors, Prof. Gurit Birnbaum, Dr. Moran Mizrahi

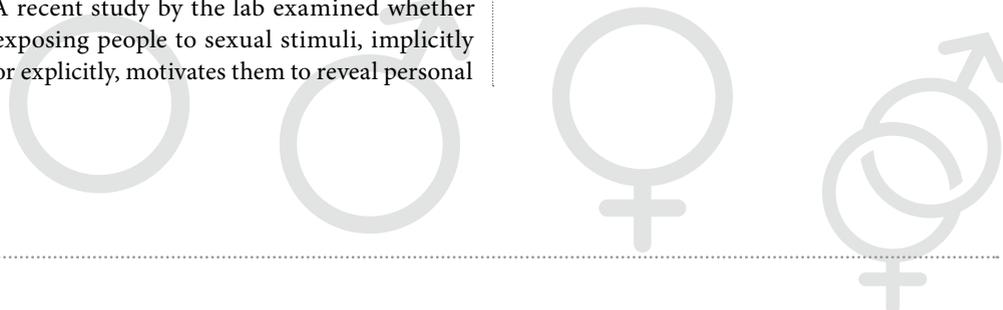
Lab Studies the Complex Role of Sexuality in Relationships

IDC's Sexuality in Close Relationships Lab, led by Prof. Gurit Birnbaum, conducts research focusing on the complex role played by sexuality in close relationships. The lab is studying questions such as how the functional significance of sex changes as relationships progress from their initial stages to long-term commitments, and how sexual behavior contributes to relationship development, maintenance, and deterioration.

The lab is also examining whether, for whom and how the nonsexual aspects of a relationship (such as attachment and intimacy) may contribute to or compensate for sexual deficiencies or dissatisfaction.

A recent study by the lab examined whether exposing people to sexual stimuli, implicitly or explicitly, motivates them to reveal personal

information to a prospective romantic partner. Another study explored processes that may help maintain sexual desire in long-term relationships, and demonstrated that responsiveness to a partner's needs is one of the best ways to instill and maintain desire over time.



The Communication Aging and Neuropsychology Lab (CAN lab)

Director, Dr. Boaz Ben-David

From the Lab to the Community

The Communication Aging and Neuropsychology Lab (CAN lab) at the Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology, led by Dr. **Boaz Ben-David**, is a leader in research on cognitive and sensory changes in aging that not only strives for scientific excellence, but also initiates and develops programs with the local community.

As part of this approach, the lab has been developing a close network of relations with many organizations that work with the elderly, including the Herzliya Association for the Elderly, Shalem, Herzliya Rotary Club, and the Histadrut retiree community center. In their outreach activities, CAN lab staff give voluntary lectures at community centers around Herzliya on a variety of topics. Ben-David, along with post-doctoral fellows Drs. **Hadas Erel**, **Vered Shakuf** and **Meital Avivi-Reich**, talked about groundbreaking scientific work being done on cognitive preservation in old age, and offered practical advice on improving the quality of life. **Oz Klein**, a psychology student who holds a master's degree in law, talked about seniors' legal rights and benefits. "As scientists, we cannot operate in a vacuum," says Ben-David. "The goal of the laboratory is to contribute, empower



Dr. Boaz Ben-David (left) with Herzliya Rotary Club board members Yuval Bar-Ner & Ali Barkay.

and learn from the older population in our local community."

The meetings were intended not just to present information but also to open the gates of the lab to the community, and more than 200 seniors have registered as volunteers who come to the

lab and participate in experiments. The CAN lab is now planning a new, unique program in which undergraduate students will work with seniors in the community. The program aims to empower seniors and show their ability to contribute, to learn and to teach, benefiting both them and the students.