



הבית
הספרדי
מרכז חיים חדש



אוניברסיטת חיפה
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA
جامعة حيفا



המרכז לחקר ולימוד הזיקנה
The Center for Research & Study of Aging
مركز تعليم ويحث علم الشيخوخة



הפקולטה
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והבריאות
אוניברסיטת
חיפה

Call for Papers

The Center for Research and Study of Aging in collaboration with The Sephardic Home invite you to participate in the first conference in Israel on:

Age-Friendly Environments

To be held on 21.05.2025-22.05.2025 at the University of Haifa and The Sephardic Home, Haifa

Life expectancy in developed countries, including Israel, is steadily increasing, along with the proportion of people aged 65+. Population aging has many implications for society and affects employment, capital markets, housing, transportation, education, welfare, health, legislation, public policy, and more. In addition, population aging impacts intergenerational and family relationships.

Senior citizens are a valuable resource and can contribute both to themselves and society in which they live. Therefore, there is a need to engage them in policy development and program planning at all levels of government. On the other hand, senior citizens age can expose them to poor health, disability, dependence, and loneliness due to a decline in various functional abilities and dependence on the physical and social environment. An age-supportive environment helps people with different abilities to maintain these abilities and persist in activities important to them.

The conference focuses on 'age friendliness' in various environments and organizations, aiming to discuss the understanding of the concept and its application in care systems, workplaces, and broader environments such as universities, age-friendly cities, and communities. During the conference, the concept of 'age friendliness' will be examined in depth, including different interpretations and principles for creating a supportive and inclusive environment. The sessions will discuss practical ways to promote age friendliness, alongside new trends and innovative methods in various fields related to these environments. The conference will serve as a platform for dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and professionals, and will encourage the creation of spaces adapted to the unique needs of aging populations.



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Guest speakers at the conference:

Mr. Gustav Strandell - Executive Director, Kohitsuji-kai Group International Care System in Japan. He received the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Director's Award for Industrial Standardization Contribution 2022, and was honored with the Global Influencer Award at the 10th International Ageing Asia Innovation Forum (AAIF) in 2019.

He received the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry Director's Award for Industrial

Prof. Nina M. Silverstein - The Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts, Boston.

She is a prominent scholar in the field of aging, focusing on Age-Friendly Universities, transportation issues for older adults, and dementia care. She has extensive experience in developing age-friendly initiatives and policies that enhance the quality of life for older adults in various environments.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts of empirical studies on these topics, with emphasis on:

- **Age-Friendly Care** – Innovations in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other healthcare settings that enhance care for older adults.
- **Age-Friendly Environments** – Designing workplaces, cities, neighborhoods, and communities that support aging populations.
- **Age-Friendly Education** – Approaches to lifelong learning in schools, universities, and other educational contexts that cater to the needs of older adults.

Guidelines for abstract submission

The abstract should be 200-300 words and include: theoretical background, research questions/intervention purpose, research/intervention method, findings/intervention process, and conclusions. **Please indicate whether the abstract is intended for a lecture, poster, workshop or project presentation¹.**

Please attach a short biographical description of the presenter (4-5 sentences)

At the top of the abstract, please indicate the names of the presenters, academic title, institutional affiliation, and email.

¹ The steering committee preserves the right to decide on presentation type.



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The deadline for sending abstracts is: January 15, 2025

For abstract submissions and questions, please contact Dr. Sigal Naim, coordinator of the Center for Research and Study of Aging, by email: snaim@univ.haifa.ac.il

Conference Steering Committee

Representatives from the University of Haifa:

Professor Anna Zisberg - Head of the Center for Research and Study of Aging at the University of Haifa;

Dr. Ksenia Shuliev - Head of the University Project for Research and Learning jointly with "The Sephardic Home" and the University of Haifa;

Dr. Orit Hirsh Matsioulas - AFU Project Manager;

Dr. Sigal Naim - Coordinator of the Center for Research and Study of Aging.

Representatives from The Sephardic Home:

Mrs. Netalie Banne - CEO of The Sephardic Home in Haifa.

Mrs. Chaya Weber Azoulay, Gerontologist, Training Coordinator.