The Social Psychology program at Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology invites you to a Special Seminar with

Prof. Gurit E. Birnbaum
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On:

"The Fragile Spell of Desire: A Functional Perspective on Changes in Sexual Desire across Relationship Development"

Monday, April 27th 2015, at 4:15pm
Room PE204, Ivcher-Tiomkin building

Sexual desire is among the strongest forces in human nature, one that can induce ecstatic pleasure and profound connection. As such, it can promote the development of a potential or current relationship. However, predicating long-term relationship decisions on current feelings of sexual desire is risky because such desire tends to change markedly over time. In the first part of this talk, I will present three series of studies that explored the contribution of intimacy-related processes to attraction in initial encounters. The first two series focused on human-human interactions, whereas the third series focused on human-robot interactions. The findings shed light on the contextual meaning of intimacy in the early stages of relationship formation. In the second part of this talk, I will introduce the integrated stage model of sexual desire. This model explains why and how individuals’ sexual reaction to their partner is context-dependent, clarifying for whom, under which circumstances, and at which relationship stage desire is likely to increase (or decline) and thereby affect relationship depth and stability.

You are invited!