

## University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

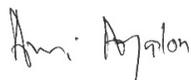
**Mary Main**

the degree of

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa**

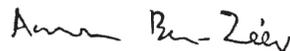
in recognition of her academic excellence and breakthrough achievements in research that provide us with a better understanding of the development of every individual and their attachment with their parents from childhood; for her conceptual and non-consensus pioneering and her exceptional intellectual aptitude; her persistence and investment in academic collaborations that cross national boundaries, which are critical to academic knowledge; and for her contribution to new generations of scholars in the academic world and at the University of Haifa in particular, who are laboring to improve our understanding of human development.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel  
28 Iyar 5771/June 1, 2011



**Ami Ayalon**

Chairman of the Executive Committee



**Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev**

President



**Prof. David Faraggi**

Rector

## PROFESSOR MARY MAIN

Born in 1943, Prof. Mary Main holds a doctorate in psychology from Johns Hopkins University and is currently full Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. She is one of the most influential psychologists today. Her work is a mainstay in the research of human development, and she is one of the foremost researchers in this field.

Prof. Main's work is understanding the development of the theory of attachment - the links formed between children and their parents in the early years of childhood, and their effects on children's development over the rest of their lifetime. Her inspiring theories have supplemented the theory of attachment with new levels of understanding and have enabled the bridging and merging of this theory with other disciplines in the study of psychology, psychiatry and human development.

Her theories and methods have become a mainstay of psychological study and provide basic material for any student of child psychology. One of these theories relates to the expansion of a system that can identify, in children as young as 12 months of age, whether they have a secure or insecure attachment with their parents. In a detailed study that uses creative out-of-the-box thinking, Prof. Main succeeded in identifying a unique type of insecure attachment that is termed disorganized attachment. This discovery is a critical breakthrough that has far-reaching impact on how we understand developmental psychopathology processes.

Prof. Main has been a leader in taking this field of research a step further by developing a system that can map parental awareness of attachment and how this awareness influences their ability to be better parents for their children.

She has published dozens of research papers and books, has been awarded many prizes for her outstanding scientific work and her breakthrough research, and has received two honorary doctorates from European universities. Excellence in research is measured, amongst other things, according to the extent of cited studies; citations of Main's work are innumerable. Over the past 25 years, hundreds of studies have been conducted around the world including thousands of study participants based on her work and the methods that she has developed. This is an exceptional achievement that testifies to the unprecedented resonance and influence that Prof. Main has had in the field of psychological study.

Prof. Main is also fostering a new generation of researchers and scientists. She assists young scholars around the world – including students at the University of Haifa – with the understanding that academic collaboration is the basis for scientific development. Many who are involved in the study of child development at the University of Haifa testify to the inspiration that Prof. Main has on their studies, which at times is based on direct guidance from her. Some of these students have gone on to acquire international repute and leadership in this field.