

## **The Passing of a Pioneer Professor Tamar Liebes, 1943–2015**



Tamar Liebes has died at the age of 72. She served as a professor of communication at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and, between 2001–2004 and 2006–2009, as chair of the department. She is best known, perhaps, for her research on cultural differences in the understandings of *Dallas*, the television series that achieved almost universal popularity.

At the university, she helped to consolidate the alliance between humanistic and social science approaches to the study of communication. This interdisciplinarity reflects her early career as producer and presenter of children’s programs on Israel’s national radio, her undergraduate training in philosophy, as well as the humanistic orientation of her family background. Her father translated the Greek classics to Hebrew, her mother was a potter, her brother, a professor of Kabbalah.

Her interests were wide. Her papers and books include sociolinguistic analysis of legal proceedings, semiotic analysis of Anwar Sadat’s proposal of peace, the routinization of television coverage of terror events, the decline of media events, the role of radio in the diffusion of the Hebrew language, the television coverage of war, and many other subjects.

She was awarded visiting fellowships at the Universities of Pennsylvania, Illinois, California, and the London School of Economics. She co-authored with Elihu Katz, Menahem Blondheim, Zohar Kampf, David Levin, Amit Pinchevski, Sonia Livingstone, Shoshana Blum-Kulka and others. She served as a public member of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, and her voice was often heard on social and political, as well as on academic issues. She was a strong, but warm, mentor to many graduate students.

חבל על דאבדין ולא משתכחין "Sadly lost and not forgotten" (Talmud Sanhedrin, 111b).