

## MEET OUR AMBASSADORS



Irit Hadar  
Associate Professor  
Head, Department of Information Systems  
*Faculty of Social Sciences*

### **Field of Research:**

Cognitive Aspects of Software Engineering and Data Science, Cyber, Responsible AI

### **SHORT BIO**

I hold the position of Associate Professor and serve as the Head of the Department of Information Systems. Additionally, I am the Founder and Head of the interdisciplinary research hub called “Design Thinking for Socio-Technical Innovation.” As part of my academic responsibilities, I am an associate editor and editorial board member for the journals Empirical Software Engineering and Requirements Engineering. Furthermore, I am honored to serve as the Program Co-Chair for the 2024 International IEEE Conference on Requirements Engineering.

My research focuses on the cognitive and social aspects of software engineering, and more recently, the cognitive aspects of data science. Through the lens of cognitive and social science theories, I analyze the decision-making processes of practitioners in these fields. Based on these insights, I develop solutions aimed at reducing cognitive load and improving decision-making during software development and data analysis, resulting in higher-quality outcomes. For instance, I study how organizational climate affects privacy and security engineering in software design and how mental models are formed and tested during data mining tasks. In my free time, I love traveling with my husband and two sons, skiing, mountain cycling, and kayaking.

### **FUNDRAISING NEEDS**

The research hub for Design Thinking for Socio-Technical Innovation was founded in 2000, with the aim to combine behavioral, engineering, and design research methods, for driving humanity-centered innovations, addressing socio-technical challenges, and advancing social values. The research hub involves members from 15 different research disciplines engaged in research promoting human values via information technology. Working in research teams, each focusing on a specific goal (e.g., preparedness of the water sector to climate change, continuity of healthcare, skill development of cognitive rehabilitation therapists, and more) and collaborating with relevant governmental and industrial partners, we develop and implement solutions toward more sustainable planet, humanity, and society. For more information: <https://www.designthinkinghub.org/>