

## Meet the Candidates for the SSSR Board Member Position

The SSSR Nominations Committee is proud to present to you the following candidates for the SSSR Board Member (in the role of President) position.



### **Carol McDonald Connor**

Chancellor's Professor, School of Education, University of California, Irvine

I am honored to be nominated for the position of President Elect of SSSR. I joined SSSR when I was a doctoral student, and I have attended every conference since the 2002 Conference in Chicago. In about 2008 or 2009 (my memory blurs), Hugh Catts asked me to become treasurer, and I served as treasurer until 2016. During that time, we secured the services of an accountant and restructured how we handled dues and registration. I am currently on the finance committee and I have been on the Editorial Review

Board of our journal, SSR, since 2007.

Currently a Chancellor's Professor in the School of Education at University of California, Irvine, my research examines the links between children's language, literacy, cognitive, and mathematics development during early and middle childhood. We have found that the effectiveness of specific instructional activities depends on the language, literacy, and math skills children bring with them to the classroom. These child-by-instruction interaction effects are evident from preschool through fourth grade. My colleagues and I also examine children's learning in the classroom and how technology might improve the instruction they receive. We also conduct research focusing on the language and literacy development of deaf children, and the impact of non-mainstream dialect use, such as African American English, on children's literacy development.

I have always appreciated SSSR for the rigorous research conducted, thought-provoking presentations, and SSR articles generated by my esteemed friends and colleagues. Again, it is an honor to have the opportunity to serve this important society.



## Elinor Haddad

Professor, English Linguistics and Literature Department, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

As SSSR Vice-President and President, I would seek to encourage research in reading acquisition and disorder in linguistically and culturally diverse contexts, and in under-researched languages, including in Arabic, my native language. I would strive to maintain the high standard of our SSSR conference and journal. I would seek to disseminate our journal and Society in the Middle East and among teacher trainers at academic colleges. I would make sure that our conferences are an international home for both young and more experienced reading experts, and that they are not only theoretically interesting but are also relevant for the classroom.

The first SSSR I attended was in Chicago in 2002 during my stay as a postdoctoral fellow at OISE. It was one of the most exciting events I have ever experienced, and since then I have become a regular participant. To me, chairing SSSR is a unique podium through which I can promote literacy research in linguistically and culturally diverse contexts, and in particular in multilectal contexts. My research on reading acquisition in Arabic diglossia, in which children grow up speaking one language variety and learning to read in another, convinced me that reading is so much more multi-faceted and intricate than we usually think. Moreover, my linguistic perspective on reading shows how difficult it is to tease apart language from reading, especially in bilectal and bilingual contexts.

I am a professor of Linguistics at the English Linguistics and Literature Department, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. I completed my graduate studies at Reading University, England (MA) and Bar-Ilan University, Israel (PhD). In my doctoral dissertation, under the supervision of Bernard Spolsky, I studied reading assessment in L1 and L2, and the impact of RC questions on text processing among university students. Then, I became interested in children and in cognitive-linguistic processes. I was trained as a Rothschild postdoctoral fellow at OISE, University of Toronto, under Esther Geva and investigated the underpinnings of reading in L1 and in L2 among Arabic-English bilingual children in Canada. Upon returning home, I focused on the impact of diglossia on reading acquisition in Arabic L1, as well as on reading in English L2 among L1 Arabic and Hebrew speakers in Israel. I have published numerous articles and chapters on reading and have recently co-edited the first and only English volume on Arabic L1 literacy titled “*Handbook of Arabic Literacy: Insights and Perspectives*” (Springer 2014). Since 2005, I have been actively involved in Israel’s Ministry of Education curriculum development, national assessment, and textbook writing for speakers of Arabic as a first language. I am a member of the editorial board of *Scientific Studies of Reading*.