



University of Nova Gorica

---

doc. dr. Urška Lavrenčič Štangar  
Vipavska 13, p.p. 301, SI-5001 Nova Gorica, tel.:05 3315 241, fax:05 3315 296, e-mail: urska.lavrencic@p-ng.si

## INVITATION

to the »Scientific Evening« given by **prof. dr. Mark Aronoff**  
(Stony Brook University, ZDA)

### *What an emerging language can tell us about language evolution*

»Scientific evening« will take place on Thursday, **7 February 2008, at 7 pm** at  
the mansion Zemono near Vipava.

The moderator will be dr. Franc Marušič from the University of Nova Gorica.

*Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language (ABSL) is the sign language of a small, insular, endogamous community in the Negev desert with a high incidence of genetically recessive profound neurosensory deafness. The first deaf individuals were born about 75 years ago and the number of deaf members of the community now numbers over 100 (in a population of about 3500). ABSL appears to have developed with little or no influence from either neighboring sign languages or the surrounding spoken languages; it is widely used in the community, with at least as many hearing as deaf users; and neither the language nor the deaf signers are stigmatized in the community. For several years, a team of linguists from Israel and the United States has been analyzing the structure of ABSL. Prof. Aronoff will review their work to date, discuss the linguistic structure of ABSL and the implications of their findings for current theories of the nature and evolution of human language.*

**Kindly invited!**