The Autism Research Lab

Department of Psychology
Bar-Ilan University

Ofer Golan, PhD
The Lab

- Currently employs, in addition to the PI:
  - 1 Doctoral level research associate
  - 1 Post doc
  - 7 Doctoral students
  - 8 Masters students
  - Undergraduate research assistants

- Research collaborations in Israel and around the world (USA, UK, Germany, Sweden).

- Clinical collaboration with the Association for Children at Risk, the Bait Echad centers.

  Focus on clinical research in ASD
Research interests

- Socio–emotional functioning
  - Emotion recognition, understanding, regulation & expression.
  - Empathy and pro–social behavior
  - Social motivation, social reciprocity and pragmatics
  - Co–morbid psychopathology

- Psychological intervention effectiveness & outcome predictors
  - Psychotherapy and Behavioral interventions
  - Technological interventions

- Parents’ role in child development and treatment.

- ASD screening and diagnostic assessment.
Methodology

- Cognitive–Behavioral paradigms
- Global and microanalytic coding of behavior
- In the process of including eye-tracking and psychophysiological assessments.

Additional methodologies of interest:
- Brain imaging (fMRI, EEG)
- Motion and emotion monitoring
- Genetics
Socio–emotional functioning

Current Projects

- Socio–emotional competence during peer interaction.
  - Dr. Tali Gev, Elyasaph Lavine, Maya Saban, & Dr. Ilanit Gordon.

- Pro–social and empathic behavior and its relation to emotion regulation.
  - Ester Zadok, Roni Navon, Shai Rabin, & Dr. Ilanit Gordon.

- Social (Pragmatic) Communication along the spectrum
  - Yael Brukner, Anat Bakalash, Dvori Klein, Orly Polack, & Dr. Ilanit Gordon

- Underlying mechanism of PTSD in individuals with ASD.
  - Nirit Haruvi, Shani Puris, Shiri Lebendiger, Gal Yedidya, & Dr. Danny Horesh

- Work Motivation in adults with ASD.
  - Yael Goldfarb, & Dr. Einat Gal
Multimodal basic and complex emotion recognition in children with ASD – a cross-cultural study
• Dr. Shimrit Fridenson & Dr. Shahar Tal.

Non verbal expression in children with ASD.
• Dr. Shahar Tal, Dr. Shimrit Fridenson, & Dr. Ilanit Gordon.

Parent mediated emotion regulation in preschoolers with ASD
• Dr. Yael Hirschler-Guttenberg, Dr. Sharon Ostfeld-Etzion, & Prof. Ruth Feldman

Psychoacoustic perception and emotional prosody in ASD
• Prof. Eitan Globerson, Dr. Noam Amir, Prof. Liat Kishon, & Prof. Michal Lavidor
Psychological intervention effectiveness

Current Projects

- A randomized controlled trial of the PEERS social skills program for adolescents with ASD.
  - Shai Rabin, Dr. Irit Mor-Snir, & Prof. Liz Laugeson

- Clinical trials of PEERS in preschoolers (P4P), primary schoolers (J–PEERS), and young adults (PEERS–YA)
  - Sandra Israel, Dr. Tali Gev, Dr. Gili Segal, & The Bait Echad team

- A controlled trial examining the integration of the ESDM into ASD preschools.
  - Dr. Tali Gev, Yana Sinai, Dr. Irit Mor, Giacomo Vivanti, & the ESDM research team. With the Association for Children at Risk.
Psychological intervention effectiveness

**Past Projects**

- A randomized controlled trial of *The Transporters* intervention with and without parental support.
  - Dr. Tali Gev, Dr. Ruthie Rosenan, & The Transporters Research team

- A cross-cultural controlled trial of the *Emotiplay* internet based serious-game
  - Dr. Shimrit Fridenson-Hayo, Dr. Shahar Tal, & the Emotiplay research team

- An evaluation of a training program for parents of highly dependent young adults with ASD.
  - Hila Shilo, Prof. Haim Omer & the Bait Echad team
Parents’ role in development & treatment

Current:
- Parental support type as an outcome predictor of adolescent gains from a parent–mediated intervention.
  - Shai Rabin, Dr. Irirt Mor-Snir, & Prof. Liz Laugeson
- Changes in parent–child synchrony following ESDM
  - Dr. Tali Gev, Yana Sinai, Dr. Irit Mor-Snir, & the ESDM research team. A collaboration with the Association for Children at Risk.

Past:
- Parenting style and parent temperament as predictors of emotion regulation in preschoolers with ASD.
  - Dr. Yael Hirschler, Dr. Sharon Ostfeld, & Prof. Ruth Feldman.
- Personal growth experiences of parents to children with ASD
  - Maya Yehonatan-Schori & Einat Waizbrod-Bartov
ASD screening and diagnostic assessment

- Screening for ASD in children and adults.
  - Sandra Israel-Yaacov, Noam Shachar & the Bait Echad team.

- Predictors of getting an ASD diagnosis – background factors, screening instruments, and diagnostic assessments.
  - Sandra Israel-Yaacov, & the Bait Echad team.
THANK YOU

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