GAL RAZ

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Bhutan

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EDUCATION

2024   **PhD** in Brain & Cognitive Sciences *(4.0 GPA)*, MIT
2018   **MSc** in Psychological Research (*with distinction*), University of Oxford
2016   **BSc** (Hons.) in Liberal Arts and Sciences (*summa cum laude*), University College Utrecht

WORK EXPERIENCE

2024-present   **Project Manager, Gelephu Mindfulness City**

- Founding member of the Gelephu Mindfulness City ("GMC") team, an autonomous Special Administrative Region in southern Bhutan led by His Majesty the King, building an economic hub that measures success with Gross National Happiness

- Developing a 2026 policy and communications framework for tokenization of privately held land in the GMC region to enable city masterplanning

- Migrating thousands of businesses from Bhutan's national regulatory systems into GMC's independent company registry, tax, and customs framework

- Managing projects with lawyers, tax experts and software engineers to set up a corporate registry, onboarding the first ~50 companies, creating hundreds of jobs

- Recruited and trained a team of Bhutanese professionals to form and run the corporate regulatory authority of GMC

2024-present   **Visiting Researcher, Chiba Tech**

- Leading academic and research collaborations between Chiba Tech and Bhutanese institutions, including:
    - A joint satellite mission with JAXA
    - An academic scholarship program for three Bhutanese students annually
    - MIT, Chiba Tech and Bhutan collaboration developing a sustainable, robotic construction method ("voxel construction") with Bhutanese local materials

2019-2024   **PhD Researcher, MIT**

- Devised an automated pipeline for collecting infant behavioral data, achieving a 15x speed-up compared to traditional methods, and collecting data from >700 infants

- Developed a rational choice model of attention using optimal decision theory and Bayesian inference, resulting in three first-author publications

- Supervised 12 research assistants and Master's students + Head TA for two semesters

2018   **Management Consulting Intern, Oliver Wyman (Amsterdam Office)**

- Developed a statistical model of credit risk for a large European bank

- Built model into a SaaS Python project to calculate liquidity requirements using data from >50k consumer and SMB loans

AWARDS

2024	Best Paper in Developmental Psychology, American Psychological Association
2022-2024	ICoN Graduate Fellowship
2021	Walle Nauta Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
2020	Cheng Graduate Fellowship
2018	Humphrey Prize for Best Research Project Dissertation in MSc cohort
2017	Full scholarship for MSc studies by German Academic Exchange Services
2016	Kupcinet-Getz Scholar at Weizmann Institute of Science

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (for a full list see Google Scholar)

Raz, G.*, Cao, A.*, Saxe, R., & Frank, M.C. (2025). A stimulus-computable rational model of habituation in infants and adults. *eLife* (*equal contribution)

Raz, G., Piccolo, S., Medrano, J., Liu, S., Lydic, K., Mei, C., Nguyen, V., Shu, T., & Saxe, R. (2024). An asynchronous, hands-off workflow for looking time experiments with infants. *Developmental Psychology* (Editor's Choice Award)

Raz, G., Cao, A., Saxe, R., & Frank, M.C. (2023). Modeling habituation in infants and adults using rational curiosity over perceptual embeddings. *NeurIPS* (IMOL Workshop)

Sella, F., **Raz, G.** & Cohen-Kadosh, R. (2021). When randomisation is not good enough: Matching groups in intervention studies. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, 1-9.*

Raz, G. & Saxe, R. (2020). Learning in Infancy Is Active, Endogenously Motivated, and Depends on the Prefrontal Cortices. *Annual Review of Developmental Psychology, 2, 247-268.*

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2017 - present	Volunteer at Dhamma Meditation Centers

- Regularly volunteer at 10-day silent meditation retreats in Germany, Israel and UK
- Lead teams of 8-10 volunteers to cook two daily meals for 100-200 meditators

2020 - 2024	Member of Graduate Student Council of the School of Science, MIT

- Advising the Dean's office on graduate student affairs
- Implemented an internship policy and relocation stipend for incoming graduates

2017	English & Math teacher at Lamdon Jamyang School, Ladakh

- 6-month placement teaching kids aged 6-13 in a village in Northern India

MISCELLANEOUS SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

Languages: German, English and Hebrew (fluent), Spanish (level B2), Dutch (level B1)

Programming languages (in order of proficiency): Python, R, Stan, MATLAB, JavaScript, Unity scripting (C#), WebPPL

Online courses (click course names for certificates):

Machine Learning (Stanford)	Bayesian Statistics I (UC Santa Cruz)
Computational Neuroscience (UW)	Bayesian Statistics II (UC Santa Cruz)
MATLAB Programming (Vanderbilt)	Python for Data Science and ML (Udemy)

For fun: Vipassana meditation, Judo, Yoga, chess, poker, RTS games, electronic music