Avital Pelakh

Pittsburgh, PA | P: 406.579.5714 | apelakh@gmail.com

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH   Pittsburgh, PA
Doctor of Philosophy in Cognitive Psychology   Expected May 2026
Master of Science in Cognitive Psychology   Dec 2023
Minor in Quantitative Methodology
Cumulative GPA: 4.0
Relevant Coursework: Data Science for Psychology and Neuroscience, Mixed Effects Modeling; Art of Data Visualization; Advanced Applied Qualitative Analysis

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY   Bozeman, MT
Bachelor of Science in Psychology   May 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

LEARNING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH   Pittsburgh, PA
Graduate Student Researcher   Sep 2020 – Present
- Cleaned and managed project data for two NSF-funded, randomized controlled repeated-measures behavioral experiments
- Redesigned data collection procedures to increase efficiency by implementing automated workflows, directories, advanced survey logic, and custom JavaScript in Qualtrics; Developed R code to pull survey data on the back end using API and automate data quality checks, cleaning and linking procedures, and output.
- Produced audio and graphic materials used for experimental stimuli and research publication/presentation.
- Led multiple strands of inquiry, managed teams to analyze qualitative verbal and written data, mentored junior researchers.

MACMILLAN LEARNING   Pittsburgh, PA
Independent Research Contractor   Sep 2023 – May 2024
- Conducted remote and on-site classroom observations for a project funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support evidence-based teaching practices.

UNIVERSITY PROJECTS

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS
- Presented research posters and invited talks internally and externally at multiple international conferences
- Led 3 annual workshops on statistical analysis for undergraduate interns
- Led workshop on building Shiny apps for the Community for Advanced Methodological Learning (CAMeL)

SKILLS

RESEARCH & STATISTICAL METHODS
- Experimental design, Survey design, Data cleaning and management, Data visualization, Interactive dashboards, Qualitative interviews and coding
- Linear and logistic regression models, Multivariate analysis, Causal inference, Mixed effects modeling, Time series analysis, Machine learning

TOOLS AND SOFTWARE ENVIRONMENTS
- **Advanced:** R (R Studio, ggplot2, Shiny), Qualtrics, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Adobe Creative Cloud (Premiere, After Effects, Photoshop, Illustrator, Audition, InDesign)
- **Proficient:** Python, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, SPSS, Databases (MySQL)

ADDITIONAL

Technical Skills: Photography, Videography, Audio Production
Languages: Fluent in English; Conversational Proficiency in Russian
Certifications & Training: Introduction to Scripting in Python (Coursera), CITI Training
Awards: Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship (2020 – 2021)