

Paul B. Sharp

paul.sharp@biu.ac.il • sharplabbiu.github.io

Academic Appointments

Present	Bar-Ilan University , Assistant Professor, Psychology Department, Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center
2023 – 2024	Yale University , Postdoctoral Research Associate
2021 – 2023	Hebrew University , Fulbright Postdoctoral Associate
2019 – 2021	Max Planck UCL Center for Computational Psychiatry , Postdoctoral Associate

Education

2016 – 2019	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill , PhD, Psychology
2013 – 2016	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , MA, Psychology (PhD Track)
2010 – 2013	Temple University , BA, Psychology, Political Science, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>

Awards and Funding

2024 – 2027	Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellowship, Azrieli Foundation, Value: \$202,000.
2021 – 2023	Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship, Fulbright Foundation, Value: \$95,000.
2022	eLife Early-Career Reviewer.
2008	American Mathematics Competition Honor Roll, MAA.

Publications

2024	Anxiety involves altered planning. Sharp PB. <i>Trends in Cognitive Sciences</i> .
2024	Humans adaptively deploy forward and backward prediction. Sharp PB, Eldar E. <i>Nature Human Behaviour</i> .
2023	Hierarchical inference as a source of human biases. Sharp PB, Fradkin I, Eldar E. <i>Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience</i> .
2022	Humans persevere on punishment avoidance goals in multigoal reinforcement learning. Sharp PB, Russek E, Huys Q, Dolan RJ, Eldar E. <i>eLife</i> .
2022	Training diversity promotes absolute-value-guided choice. Solomyak L, Sharp PB, Eldar E. <i>PLOS Computational Biology</i> .

- 2021 Disrupted state transition learning as a computational marker of compulsivity. Sharp PB, Dolan RJ, Eldar E.
Psychological Medicine.
- 2021 Cognitive control deployment is flexibly modulated by social value in early adolescence. Sharp PB, Do KT, Lindquist KA, Prinstein MJ, Telzer EH.
Developmental Science.
- 2020 Towards formal models of psychopathological traits that explain symptom trajectories. Sharp PB, Miller GA, Dolan RJ, Eldar E.
BMC Medicine.
- 2020 Modernizing conceptions of valuation and cognitive control deployment in adolescent risk taking. Do KT*, Sharp PB*, Telzer EH.
Current Directions in Psychological Science.
- 2019 Computational models of anxiety: Nascent efforts and future directions. Sharp PB, Eldar E.
Current Directions in Psychological Science.
- 2019 Mechanistic science: A new approach to comprehensive psychopathology research that relates psychological and biological phenomena. Thomas JG, Sharp PB.
Clinical Psychological Science.
- 2019 Reduction and autonomy in psychology and neuroscience: A call for pragmatism. Sharp PB, Miller GA.
Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology.
- 2018 Mindfulness training induces structural connectome changes in insula networks. Sharp PB, Sutton BP, Paul EJ, et al.
Scientific Reports.
- 2017 Structural connectomics of anxious arousal in early adolescence: Translating clinical and ethological findings. Sharp PB, Telzer EH.
NeuroImage: Clinical.
- 2017 Selective neural sensitivity to familial threat in adolescents with weak family bonds. Sharp PB, Heller W, Telzer EH.
Social Neuroscience.
- 2015 Transdiagnostic dimensions of anxiety: Neural mechanisms, executive functions, and new directions. Sharp PB, Miller GA, Heller W.
International Journal of Psychophysiology.

Conference Symposia

- July 2025 Chair. Cognitive map biases across psychopathology. Computational Psychiatry Conference, Tübingen, GE.
- June 2022 Co-Chair. Repetitive Negative Thinking and Simulation in Natural and Artificial Cognition. The 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making, Brown University.

Fall 2017 Co-Chair. Constructing riskier tests of theory, linking psychological and biological phenomena, and introducing a new mechanistic philosophy of science. Society for Psychophysiological Research, Vienna, Austria,

Talks

February 2025 **Meta-control and Planning**
Emory University, Psychology Department.

January 2025 **Why plan forward or backward?**
Rick Adams Lab, UCL.

July 2024 **Over-planning computations in worry.**
Computational Psychiatry Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

June 2022 **Using a science of planning to understand the dynamics of worry.**
The 5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making.

August 2022 **Understanding worry using planning algorithms.**
Laboratory of Neural Computation and Cognition (Michael J. Frank Lab), Brown University, RI.

February 2022 **Efficient planning algorithms humans use to pursue multiple goals.**
Israeli Society for Cognitive Psychology.

September 2021 **Computations of Chronic Worry: Dysfunction in Multi-goal Learning and Planning Efficiency.**
Society for Research in Psychopathology.

March 2021 **Neuroscience only leads to understanding with computation: A brief history of efforts to understand human anxiety.**
Leelab, Virginia Tech, VA.

December 2019 **How task-irrelevant emotion affects model-building: Implications for basic learning processes and psychopathology.**
Tel Aviv University, Bar-Haim Lab.

October 2019 **Computations in human anxiety: New developments in a nascent field.**
National Institute of Mental Health, Pine Lab, Bethesda, MD.

Mentorship

2024 – 2025 **Marine Hainguerlot**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Bar-Ilan University.

2024 – 2025 **Noa Yadid**, Psychology Undergraduate, Bar-Ilan University.

Professional Memberships

2023 – Present Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making.

2023 – Present Computational Psychiatry.

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Biological Psychiatry, eLife, Nature Communications, Translational Psychiatry, PLOS Computational Biology, Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences, Journal of Neuroscience, Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews, Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging, Behavior Research and Therapy, Developmental Science, Clinical Psychology Review, Cognitive Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience.