

Yaniv Abir
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Academic Appointment

2024- Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Computational Psychiatry,
University College London
Advisor: Quentin Huys, MD, PhD

Education

- 2018-2024 PhD, Psychology,
Columbia University.
Advisors: Daphna Shohamy, PhD and Michael Shadlen, MD, PhD.
- 2015-2017 MA, Cognitive Sciences,
Magna cum laude, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Advisor: Ran Hassin, PhD.
- 2013-2016 BA, Cognitive Sciences and Psychology.
Summa cum laude, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Research assistantship advisors: Ran Hassin, PhD and Ayelet Landau, PhD.

Publications

- Abir, Y., Mok, J., Baldassano, C., Marvin, C., & Shohamy, D. (2025, April 16). *Learning Reinforces Curiosity*.
https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/9bw6j_v1
- Mkrtychian, A., Qiu, Z., Abir, Y., Erdmann, T., Dercon, Q., Sedlinska, T., Browning, M., Costello, H., & Huys, Q. J. M. (2025). *Differential Associations of Dopamine and Serotonin With Reward and Punishment Processes in Humans: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*. *JAMA psychiatry*, 82(8), 818–829.
<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2025.0839>
- Abir, Y., Shadlen, M. N., & Shohamy, D. (2024). *Human Exploration Strategically Balances Approaching and Avoiding Uncertainty*. *eLife*, 13.
- Abir, Y., Marvin, C. B., van Geen, C., Leshkowitz, M., Hassin, R. R., & Shohamy, D. (2022). *An energizing role for motivation in information-seeking during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic*. *Nature Communications*, 13(1), 1-10.
- Sklar, A. Y., Goldstein, A. Y., Abir, Y., Goldstein, A., Dotsch, R., Todorov, A., & Hassin, R. R. (2021). *Did you see it? Robust individual differences in the speed with which meaningful visual stimuli break suppression*. *Cognition*, 211, 104638.
- Abir, Y., & Hassin, R. R. (2020). *Getting to the heart of it: multi-method exploration of nonconscious prioritization processes*. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 85, 103005.
- Abir, Y., Sklar, A. Y., Dotsch, R., Todorov, A., & Hassin, R. R. (2018). *The determinants of consciousness of human faces*. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1.

Presentations at Conferences and Meetings

- 2025 British Association of Psychopharmacology
- 2025 RLDM
- 2024 British Association of Psychopharmacology
- 2023 Hebrew University of Jerusalem Cognitive Science Department invited talk.
- 2023 UKE Hamburg Cognitive Computational Neuroscience, invited talk.
- 2023 Symposium on Biology of Decision Making, ICM, Paris.

- 2022 Manhattan Area Memory Meeting.
2022 CPC++: Computational Psychiatry Course.
2022 RLDM (chosen for spotlight).
2022 Columbia University Memory Club.
2021 Neuromatch 4.0.
2021 The Second Workshop on Mental Effort.
2021 BLRB meeting at The University of Chicago, invited talk.
2019 Columbia University Motor Club.
2017 Israeli Society for Cognitive Psychology.
2016 Jerusalem Brain Community Annual Retreat (chosen for spotlight).

Teaching Experience

- 2022-2023 Teaching assistant, *Drugs and Behaviour*.
2021-2022 Teaching assistant, *Memory and Stress*.
2021 Teaching assistant, *Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience*.
2018-2020 Teaching assistant, *Introduction to Statistics for Behavioural Scientists*.
2015-2017 Teaching assistant, *Introduction to Logic for Cognitive Sciences* and *Introduction to Cognitive Neuroscience*.
2014-2015 “Knowledge for all”: Instructor at an introduction to psychology evening class. A joint project with the Jerusalem municipal department of welfare.

Mentoring

- 2024-2025 Francesca Casimiro, MSc placement student
2022-2023 Jane Mok, Barnard college Cognitive Science thesis student
2022-2023 Brenna Bessa, postbaccalaureate research assistant
2021-2023 Sam Barnett, undergraduate research assistant
2016-2017 Yoav Resnik, undergraduate research assistant
2016-2017 Yuval Harris, undergraduate research assistant

Awards and Scholarships

- 2022 Ed Smith Memorial Award.
2020, 2022 Emil S. Bahary Doctoral Student Fellowship.
2021 Leo Rubinstein Endowed Fellowship.
2017 President of The Hebrew University PhD Honours Programme.
2016-2017 The Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School MA Honours Programme.
2016, 2017 The Hebrew University Dean of Humanities award for excellence.
2014, 2015 The Hebrew University Rector’s award for excellence.

Professional Service

- 2025 UCL Computational Psychiatry Seminar organizer.

2020 Columbia University Interdisciplinary Decision-Making Club organizer.

2019 Columbia University Memory Club organizer.

Peer Review

Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, Scientific Reports, Open Mind, Computational Psychiatry, Biological Psychiatry.