



אוניברסיטת בר-אילן
Bar-Ilan University

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**

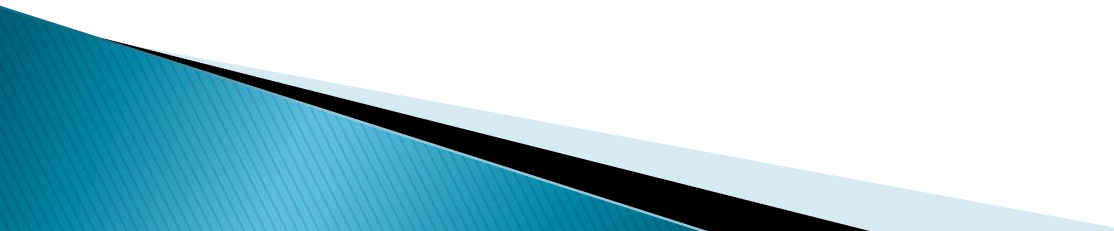
- Psychotherapy and Behavioral interventions
- Technological interventions

▶ **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
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Socio-emotional functioning

Current Projects

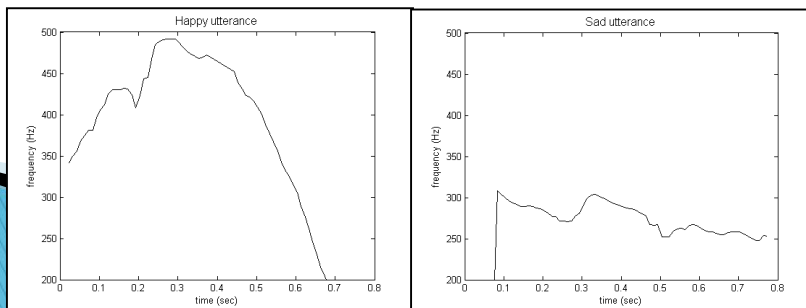
- ▶ Socio-emotional competence during peer interaction.
 - Dr. Tali Gev, Elyasaph Lavine, Maya Saban, & Dr. Ilanit Gordon.
- ▶ Pro-social and empathic behavior and its relation to emotion regulation.
 - Ester Zadok, Roni Navon, Shai Rabin, & Dr. Ilanit Gordon.
- ▶ Social (Pragmatic) Communication along 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






Socio-emotional functioning

Past Projects

- ▶ 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

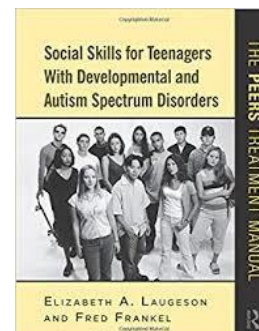
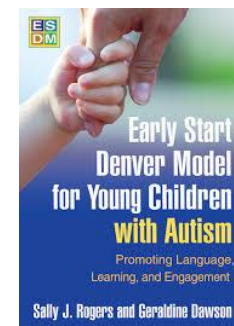


How does the girl in the video feel?	How does the girl in the video feel?	At the end of the scene, how is the young man in the purple hoodie feeling?
		
a. Happy b. <u>Sad</u> c. Afraid d. Angry	a. Happy b. Sad c. Afraid. d. <u>Angry</u>	a. Disappointed b. <u>Interested</u> c. Proud d. Joking

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.

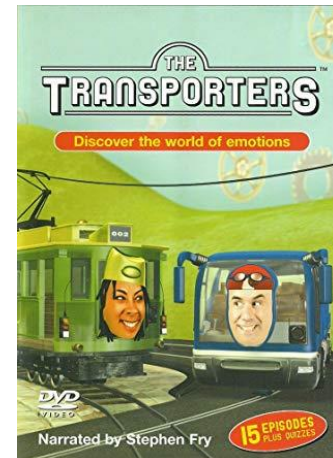


Psychological intervention effectiveness

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

EmotiPlay
Emotion Games



Parents' role in development & treatment

Current:

- ▶ Parental support type as an outcome predictor of adolescent gains from a parent-mediated intervention.
 - Shai Rabin, Dr. Irit 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:

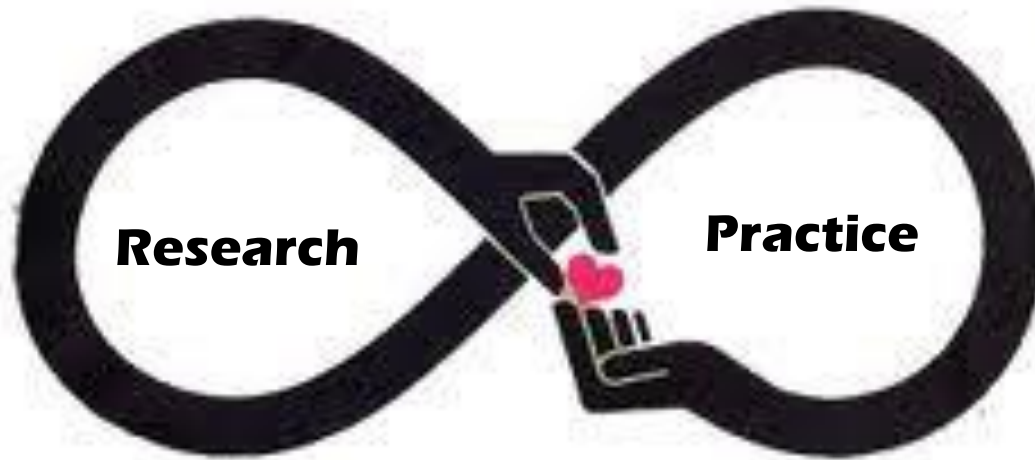
- ▶ Parenting style and parent temperament as predictors of emotion regulation in preschoolers with ASD.
 - Dr. Yael Hirschler, Dr. Sharon Ostfeld, & Prof. Ruth Feldman.
- ▶ Personal growth experiences of parents to children with ASD
 - Maya Yehonatan-Schori & Einat Waizbrod-Bartov



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.





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THANK YOU

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