

# AMIR RAZ

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Education

#### Post-doctoral Training:

Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, NY, USA 2002  
Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology, Department of Psychiatry  
Supervisor: Michael I. Posner

#### Graduate:

Ph.D., Brain Science: Computation and Information Processing, 2000  
M.Sc., Brain Science: Computation and Information Processing, 1997  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel  
Interdisciplinary Center for Neural Computation and Department of Psychology  
Supervisor: Shlomo Bentin

#### Undergraduate:

B.Sc., Computer Science, *summa cum laude*, 1988  
Farleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ, USA  
School of Science and Engineering, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

## Appointments

- Director and Professor** 2017-present  
 Institute for Interdisciplinary Brain and Behavioral Sciences  
 Chapman University, Orange, CA, U.S.A.
- Senior Researcher** 2007–present  
 Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research of the SMBD Jewish General Hospital
- Visiting Professor** 2014–2015  
 Department of Psychology and Brain Institute  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 Los Angeles, CA, USA
- Canada Research Chair** 2007–present  
 in the Cognitive Neuroscience of Attention 2007–2012  
 in Atypical Attention 2012-present  
 Faculty of Medicine, McGill University
- Associate Professor** 2007-present  
 Department of Psychiatry  
 (Associate Member in the Departments of Neurology & Neurosurgery, Psychology, and the  
 Montreal Neurological Institute) 2007-present  
 McGill University, Montréal, QC
- with Tenure** 2012–present
- Visiting Professor** 2006-2007  
 Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute  
 Vancouver, BC
- Assistant Professor** 2003–2006  
 Clinical Neuroscience, Department of Psychiatry  
 Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons  
 New York, NY, USA
- Research Scientist (IV)** 2003–2006  
 New York State Psychiatric Institute  
 1051 Riverside Drive  
 New York, NY
- Assistant Professor** 2002–2003  
 Psychology, Department of Psychiatry  
 Weill Medical College of Cornell University  
 The New York Presbyterian Hospital – Westchester Division  
 White Plains, NY, USA

## Special Honors, Awards, and Recognition

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Erica Fromm Teaching Award, Society of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis   | 2019      |
| International Hypnosis Society, Head of Science Conference, Montreal  | 2018      |
| Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada   | 2018      |
| Golden Key Honourary Fellow   | 2017      |
| Fellow of the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis  | 2017      |
| BIAL Fellow   | 2016      |
| Jay Haley Early Career Award for Innovative Contributions   | 2012      |
| Award of the Task Force on Hypnosis Research from ASCH  | 2010      |
| Presidential Commendation from SCEH   | 2008      |
| American Society of Clinical Hypnosis Special Recognition Award   | 2007      |
| Ernest and Josephine Hilgard Award.   | 2007      |
| Diplomate of the American Board of Psychological Hypnosis (ABPH)  | 2006      |
| Young Investigator Award from the National Alliance for<br>Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD)  | 2006      |
| American Psychological Association's Early Career Award (Div. 30)   | 2006      |
| Presidential Commendation for Public Education from the<br>Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis   | 2005      |
| Best Paper Award, American Psychological Association, Division 30   | 2004      |
| Lake Tahoe Summer Institute Brain Science Award   | 2003      |
| Honorary Young Member of the Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience<br>36 <sup>th</sup> Winter Conference on Brain Research,<br>Snowbird, Utah –Young Fellow Award | 2003      |
| Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis:<br>Sherry K. and Harold B. Crasilneck Award.  | 2002      |
| DeWitt Wallace – Reader's Digest Research Award in Psychiatry.  | 2002      |
| Research Award of Psychology in Psychiatry, Payne Whitney Clinic.   | 2001      |
| Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis Award.   | 2001      |
| Best poster award: Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan-Kettering,<br>Tri-Institutional Competition.   | 2001      |
| Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience Award, Dartmouth College, NH.   | 2000      |
| Presentation Award: Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.  | 2000      |
| The Open University Award for Excellence in Teaching.   | 1995–1999 |
| Hebrew University Award for Outstanding Pilot Studies.  | 1998      |
| Institute of Neural Computation Prize.  | 1994–1997 |
| Feinberg Graduate School Merit Award.   | 1993–1994 |
| Honors List and Dean's Award for outstanding thesis:<br>"Thematic Abstraction Units."   | 1989–1990 |
| Merit Scholarship and Member of Honor Society, FDU.   | 1985–1988 |

## Summary

I have authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications, including in top journals such as *Nature*, *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, *The Lancet Psychiatry*, *Archives of General Psychiatry (JAMA Psychiatry)*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Brain*, and *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience* (with over a thousand citations). In addition, I have published my programmatic research efforts in leading niche journals including *Psychological Science*, *PLoS Medicine*, *Cortex*, and *NeuroImage*. Moreover, I published three peer-reviewed volumes, commissioned by reputable academic publishing houses (e.g., Oxford University Press) and am currently completing two more books. I have a demonstrated track-record of successful grantsmanship, teaching, service, and scholarship.

My contributions are multi-factorial and apply both outside and within the University. Outside the University, I am an active communicator of popular science and an avid proponent of community outreach including high school and college education, responsible media appearances (e.g., New York Times, Scientific American Mind), featured documentaries on specific neuroscience topics (e.g., with the BBC, National Geographic, and CBC), editorial responsibilities, administrative leadership positions in both international societies and professional organizations, and communicating with the general public. Within the university circle, I regularly engage in a variety of University-related affairs. I also find the time to contribute to the important causes of continuing medical education, including homecoming, and fundraising events.

I enjoy teaching and thrive on interacting with students. As a former professional performer, standing in front of and engaging my audience comes naturally to me. I am passionate about effective teaching and strive to offer meaningful and memorable educational experiences to my students and colleagues. I have taught undergraduate, graduate, medical, and non-degree students for more than 30 years.

Cognitive scientists typically distinguish between controlled (i.e., voluntary) and automatic (i.e., involuntary) mental processes. On the one hand, controlled processes are effortful, deliberate, and demand attention (e.g., acquiring literacy for a neophyte). On the other hand, automatic processes are effortless, “happen on their own,” and require little attention (e.g., word reading for a skilled reader). While several researchers have studied how controlled processes may become automatic (e.g., through extensive practice and persistent exposure), only a few studies have explored how automatic processes could return to the purview of voluntary control and free will. My overarching research trajectory addresses this topic and comprises a converging series of interrelated experiments – drawing on different experimental paradigms to elucidate how automatic processes can be de-automatized. This program has guided my research for nearly a decade and represents a novel research direction exploring the influence of top-down processes – e.g., framing, priming, and symbolic thinking – including suggestion and expectation, on a wide array of bottom-up processes. Findings from this research program pave the road to a more scientific understanding of the neural correlates of healthy as well as abnormal brain computations, hold important therapeutic implications for patients suffering from psychopathologies, and elucidate fundamental processes in the behavioral and neurocognitive sciences.

## Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications

*Bold font indicates a supervised student.*

### a) Select Papers

1. **Wong, A.**, and Raz, A. (2021). Microdosing with Classical Psychedelics: Research Trajectories and Practical Considerations. *Transcultural Psychiatry*.
2. **Kaypak, A. C.** and Raz, A. (2021). Macro dosing to micro dosing with psychedelics: Clinical, social, and cultural perspectives. *Transcultural Psychiatry*.
3. **Landry, M., Da Silva Castanheira, J., Milton, D., & Raz, A.** (2021) Suggestion alters Stroop automaticity: Hypnotic alexia through a proactive lens. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cns0000268>
4. **Thériault, R., Olson, J. A., Krol, S. A. & Raz, A.** (2021) Body swapping with a black person boosts empathy: Using virtual reality to embody another. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. 17470218211024826.
5. **Olson, J.A., Lifshitz, M., Raz, A., and Vessièrè, S.P.L.** (2021). Super placebos: A feasibility study combining contextual factors to promote placebo effects. *Front. Psychiatry* 12:644825
6. **Landry, M., Da Silva Castanheira, J., Sackur, J., Raz, A.** (2021). Investigating how the modularity of visuospatial attention shapes conscious perception using type 1 and type 2 signal detection theory. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*.
7. **Olson, J. A., Sandra, D., Chmoulevitch, D., Raz, A., & Vessièrè, S. P.** (2021). A ten-step behavioural intervention to reduce screen time and problematic smartphone use. (*Preprint*).
8. **Olson, J. A., & Raz, A.** (2021) Applying insights from magic to improve deception in research: The Swiss cheese model. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. 104053.
9. **Olson, J. A., Sandra, D. A., Colucci, É. S., et al.** (2020). Smartphone addiction is increasing across the world: A meta-analysis of 24 countries. (*Preprint*). <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/fsn6v>
10. **Landry M., Da Silva Castanheira J, Sackur J, & Raz A.** (2020). Difficult Turned Easy: Suggestion Renders a Challenging Visual Task Simple, *Psychological Science*.
11. **Landry, M., Da Silva Castanheira, J., Milton, D., Raz, A.** (2020). Suggestion alters automaticity: Hypnotic alexia through a proactive lens. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*.
12. **Olson, J.A., Suissa-Rochelleau, L., Lifshitz, M.** et al. (2020). Tripping on nothing: placebo psychedelics and contextual factors. *Psychopharmacology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00213-020-05464-5>
13. **Olson, J. A., Artenie, D. Z., Cyr, M., Raz, A., & Lee, V.** (2019). Developing a light-based intervention to reduce fatigue and improve sleep in rapidly rotating shift workers. *Chronobiology International*, 1-19.
14. Krol, S. A., **Thériault, R., Olson, J. A., Raz, A., & Bartz, J.** (2019). Self-Concept Clarity and the Bodily Self: Malleability Across Modalities. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. doi: 10.1177/0146167219879126
15. **Thériault, R., & Raz, A.** (2018). Patterns of bronchial challenge testing in Canada. *Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy*, 54(2), 41-47. doi: 10.29390/cjrt-2018-006.
16. **Thibault RT, Lifshitz M, & Raz A.** (2018). The Climate of Neurofeedback: Scientific Rigour and the Perils of Ideology *Brain*.
17. **Thibault, R. T., Vessièrè S., Olson, J. A., & Raz, A.** (2018). Treating ADHD with Suggestion: Neurofeedback and Placebo Therapeutics. *Journal of Attention Disorders*, 22(8), 707-711.
18. **Landry, M., Stendel, M., Landry, M., & Raz, A.**(2018). Hypnosis in palliative care: from clinical insights to the science of self-regulation. *Annals of palliative medicine*, 7(1).
19. **Thibault, R. T., MacPherson, A., Lifshitz, M., Roth, R. R., & Raz, A.** (2018). Neurofeedback with fMRI: A critical systematic review. *NeuroImage*, 172, 786–807.