

SHANY DROR

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EDUCATION

PhD. [expected]. Cognitive Ethology, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), 2024
Budapest, Hungary.

MSc. Agricultural science, Hohenheim University, Stuttgart Germany. 2019

BSc. Animal science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot, Israel. 2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD candidate, advised by Prof. Dr. Ádám Miklósi & Dr. Claudia Fugazza, Department of Ethology, ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary. 2019- currently

- Researching language related cognitive mechanisms in nonhuman species.
- Conducting cognitive and behavioral tests with dogs.
- Developing a methodology for remote testing of dogs under controlled conditions.

Visiting PhD candidate, advisor Prof. Gergely Csibra, Department of cognitive science, Central Europe University, Vienna, Austria. (Study preregistered at [OSF](#)) 2022- 2023

- Designing and running eye-tracking studies with infants.

Researcher, Royal Canin® contracted through the Hungarian Ethology Foundation (international). 2021- currently

- Designing and conducting cognitive tests aimed to assess the influence of nutrition on cognitive performance of working dogs.
- Welfare assessments of kennel housed dogs.
- Coordinating and conducting fieldwork.

Research assistant and animal trainer, Neuroethology of Communication Lab by Dr. Attila Andics, Department of Ethology, ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary. 2018-2019

- Training Minotaur Family Pigs to participate in non-constrained neuroimaging scans (fMRI and EEG).

MSc. Student, Research group of Dr. Anna C. Treydte, Department of tropical agriculture, Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, Germany and The Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation, Chiang Rai, Thailand. 2015-2018

- Assessing the suitability of European honeybees as a means for deterring elephants from crop-raiding.
- Developing an experimental apparatus for studying elephants' reactions to honeybees.
- Developing a methodology for assessing aggression levels in honeybees.

BSc. Student, Research group of Prof. Dr. Gila Kahila Bar-Gal, Institute of veterinary medicine, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot, Israel. 2011-2014

- Behavioral assessment of scent detection dogs.

Research assistant and animal trainer, Egyptia fruit bat Laboratory of Nachum Ulanovsky, Department of Neurobiology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel. 2012-2014

- Training fruit bats to perform 3D navigational tasks.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Analysis:
R language

Behavioral coding:
BORIS
Solomon coder

Web building:
WordPress
Elementor

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

World championship competitor, dog training, Israel national team, FCI-IPO WM 2015, 2016 & 2017. WUSV-WM 2016. 2015-2017

- including tracking, obedience and protection.

Dog trainer, self-employed. 2010-2015

Training protection and sent detection dogs, Israeli Police Force.	2008-2010
Horse trainer and riding instructor, multiple farms, Israel.	2005-2010

ACADEMIC SERVICE

The Family Dog Project, Hungarian ethology foundation, Budapest, 2020-currently Hungary:

Logistical management

- Conducting Budget estimations
- Coordinating traveling of personnel
- Managing international shipment of samples and research equipment.

Public relationships

- Issuing press releases.
- Conducting interviews for international press.

Social media management

- Creating science-based content for Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to expand research impact and subject recruitment.
 - Scripting and editing video abstracts.
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PUBLICATIONS

- **S Dror**, A Miklósi, A Sommese, C Fugazza, 2023. A citizen science model turns anecdotes into evidence by revealing similar characteristics among Gifted Word Learner dogs. Scientific Reports. 13:21747. [10.1038/s41598-023-47864-5](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-47864-5)
- **S Dror**, A Sommese, A Miklósi, A Temesi, C Fugazza, 2022. Multisensory mental representation of objects in typical and Gifted Word Learner dogs. Animal Cognition. doi.org/10.1007/s10071-022-01639-z
- **S Dror**, A Miklósi, A Sommese, A Temesi, C Fugazza, 2021. Examining learning rate and long-term memory of object names in a sample of selected dogs. Royal Society Open Science. 8: 210976. doi.org/10.1098/rsos.210976
- **S Dror**, F Harich, O Duangphakdee, T Savini, A Pogány, J Roberts, J Geheran, A.C Treydte, 2020. Are Asian elephants afraid of honeybees? Experimental studies in northern Thailand. Mammalian Biology. doi.org/10.1007/s42991-020-00042-w
- C Fugazza, **S Dror**, A Sommese, A Temesi, A Miklósi, 2021. Word learning dogs provide an animal model for studying exceptional performance. Scientific Reports. 11:14070. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-93581-2

- C Fugazza, A Andics, L Magyari, **S Dror**, A Zempléni, 2021. Rapid learning of object names in dogs. *Scientific Reports*. 11:14070. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-81699-2
- A Sommesse, A Pogány, A Miklósi, A Temesi, **S Dror**, C Fugazza, 2021. Head-tilting in dogs and its potential relationship to attention. *Animal Cognition*. doi.org/10.1007/s10071-021-01571-8
- C Fugazza, B Turcsan, A Sommesse, **S Dror**, A Temesi, A Miklósi, 2022. A comparison of personality traits of gifted word learner and typical border collies. *Animal Cognition*. doi.org/10.1007/s10071-022-01657-x
- J Espinosa, J Stevens, D Alberghina, ... **S Dror**... C Völter, (2023). ManyDogs 1: A multi-lab replication study of dogs' pointing comprehension. *Animal Behavior and Cognition*. doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/4kncr

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Dror. S.**, Miklosi, A., Fugazza, C., 2023. Diverse Intelligence Summit, St. Andrews, UK: The potential of Gifted Word Learner dogs as a comparative model.
- **Dror. S.**, Miklosi, A., Sommesse, A., Temesi, A., Fugazza, C., 2022. Association for Studying Animal Behavior (ASAB), Easter conference. Newcastle, UK: Vocabulary size of object verbal labels may indicate differences in integration of pointing and naming objects in family dogs.
- **Dror. S.**, Miklosi, A., Sommesse, A., Temesi, A., Fugazza, C., 2021. Association for Studying Animal Behavior, Easter virtual conference: [Examining the speed in which dogs can learn new object names.](#)
- **Dror, S.**, Miklósi, Á., Temesi, A., Sommesse, A., Fugazza, C., 2021. The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, virtual conference: [“Who’s a smart boy?” Qualitative variation in the ability of dogs to learning object names.](#)
- **Dror, S.**, Sommesse, A., Temesi, A., Pogany, A., Miklosi, A., Fugazza, C., 2020. Animal Behav Society, virtual conference: [“Where is my ball? I cannot see it!” - Multimodal mental representation of objects in a family dog.](#)

SELECTED CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- **Dror, S.**, Miklósi, Á., Sommesse, A., Fugazza, C., 2023. Dubrovnik Conference on Cognitive Science, Dubrovnik, Croatia: Eavesdropping in dogs: Dogs with a vocabulary of object labels can learn new labels by observing social interactions.
- **Dror, S.**, Miklósi, Á., Temesi, A., Sommesse, A., Fugazza, C., 2021. Canine Science Forum, virtual conference: Integrated comprehension of pointing and naming objects in family dogs.
- **Dror, S.**, Harich, F., Treydte, A.C., 2019. Association for Studying Animal Behavior (ASAB), Easter conference, York, UK: Assessing the suitability of honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) as a method for preventing Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) from crop raiding.

AWARDS

Diverse Intelligence award for academic contribution, Templeton World Charity Foundation.	2023
Doctoral School of Biology (DSB), ELTE University, best flash talk award, DSB conference.	2023
Animal Behavior Society (ABS) Science Communication Grant. Awarded for the social media science campaign the Genius Dog Challenge .	2022
Association for the Study of Animal Behavior (ASAB), Best talk runner-up, Easter conference.	2021

PUBLIC IMPACT

My research, publicly known as the [Genius Dog Challenge](#), is both an ongoing research project and an educational social media campaign, aimed to recruit subjects. Increased public awareness was achieved by live broadcasting parts of the experiments on [YouTube](#). The outcome of this research has been covered by the leading media channels including [ABC News](#), [The Guardian](#), [Fox News](#), [The Times](#), [NBC News](#), [Sky News](#), [New York Times](#), [CNN](#) and many others. As part of managing the [social media accounts](#) of the project I regularly engage in science communication and write a popular science [blog](#) about cognitive ethology and its applied applications for animal training.

INVITED TALKS

Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY. Canine Cognition Course, graduate student level. Guest lecture: "Gifted Word Learning dogs and the power of science communication"	2022
Israeli Prison Association, Dog Handler Unit, Israel. Lecture series for dog handlers: "Applying canine science in the service of working dogs"	2022
DogArt Academy, Israel. Lecture series for dog trainers: "Between behaviorism and ethology"	2022
Learning Dogs, Israel. Lecture series for dog trainers: "Introduction to cognitive ethology".	2022

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Diverse Intelligence Summer Institute, Templeton World Charity Foundation, St. Andrew University, Scotland.	Jun- Jul, 2023
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“Bridging the Technology Gap workshop”: German Primate Center, Gottingen. Aug, 2022

“Representing the world in the developing mind: From objects to context”: Central Europe University Summer School Jul, 2021

“Biolinguistics: Language, Mind, and Brain”: University of Arizona Oct- Dec, 2020

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Peer Review Journals:

Applied Animal Behavior,
Animal Behavior and Cognition