

Short Bio

Professor Bar is The Director of the Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center at Bar-Ilan University and the head of the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab. He is an internationally recognized cognitive neuroscientist, whose novel research has made revolutionary contributions to our understanding of perception, cognition and issues in psychiatry.

Prof. Bar graduated in biomedical engineering from Ben-Gurion University in 1988, and following military service in the Israeli Air-Force received a Master's degree in Applied Mathematics and Computer Sciences at the Weizmann Institute of Science (1994), and then a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles (1998). His dissertation received an Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award. Prof. Bar conducted postdoctoral training at the Psychology Department at Harvard University and the Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), where he was quickly promoted to a faculty position in Neuroscience, Psychiatry and Radiology at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2011 Prof. Bar moved back to Israel.

His work focuses on exploring how the brain extracts and uses contextual information to generate predictions and guide cognition efficiently, as well as characterization of the links between cognitive processing, mood and depression. In his research, Prof. Bar uses neuroimaging (fMRI, MEG, EEG), psychophysical and computational methods.

During his career, Prof. Bar has mentored over 50 graduate students, fellows, and research assistants, and published over 70 publications in top journals, authored several book chapters, and edited two books. Prof. Bar also writes about cognition and neuroscience to the general public, including numerous op-ed pieces in the NY Times, Boston Globe and more, and he is currently working on a trade book.