



European Research Council  
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## PhD position on Nature Conservation Behaviors and Subjective Well-being

### Position Overview:

Dr. Atar Herziger and Prof. Assaf Shwartz (Human and Biodiversity lab) at the Technion Institute of Technology are recruiting a PhD student to work at the intersection between the fields of ecology and environmental psychology. Human activity is driving an unprecedented biodiversity crisis worldwide. The future of nature conservation and the associated benefits nature provides to humans (e.g., health and wellbeing) strongly rely on our ability to shift human behavior to minimize ecological disruption. However, most ecological research to date has focused on the biological impacts of human behavior, rather than behavioral change, while research in psychology has largely focused on pro-environmental behaviours that do not necessarily benefit biodiversity conservation.

This interdisciplinary PhD project aims to advance our understanding of individual level nature conservation behaviors and their impact on subjective well-being. The project seeks to explore fundamental questions, such as: (1) how can fostering nature conservation behaviors not only promote biodiversity but also enhance quality-of-life for individuals; and (2) what intervention could effectively reduce ecologically destructive individual behaviors.

### Qualifications:

The successful candidate will investigate the psychological drivers and barriers of nature conservation behaviors using experimental psychology methodologies. They will also assess the impact of such behaviors on individuals' subjective well-being, drawing from social psychology theory. Additionally, they will develop and experimentally evaluate innovative strategies to promote nature conservation behaviors and improve subjective well-being. This research aims to bridge between the disciplines of ecology and environmental psychology, offering a comprehensive understanding of the intricate connections between human activities, biodiversity, and well-being.

We are seeking applicants who have successfully completed a Master's degree in psychology or related fields, who ideally have gained experience or knowledge in environmental and social psychology. Strong proficiency in quantitative analysis (R or SPSS) and experimental research methodologies is essential. Ideal candidates should possess a deep passion for unraveling and influencing human behavior towards fostering favorable environmental results. Moreover, effective teamwork, project management skills, and a dedicated commitment to advancing scientific knowledge within the realms of biodiversity conservation and well-being are highly valued qualities.

**Important information:**

This is a full-time position for the duration of 3.5 years. The starting date is flexible, on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Salary and benefits are very competitive and consistent with the Technion policy and the applicant's prior experience. The application deadline is **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**, and applicants will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

**How to apply:**

Please send application letters in PDF format by email to [ronitco@technion.ac.il](mailto:ronitco@technion.ac.il) indicating the title of the position you are applying for. In your application, please include the following materials:

- A letter stating your motivation and experience in relation to the project.
- CV (including details of qualifications, relevant experience and/or publications).
- Contact details of two referees (email addresses).