Relational Frame Theory:  
Identifying and Using a Core Skill in Human Language and Cognition

A Lecture By:  
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In this lecture I will provide a very brief overview of the RFT research program. Behavioral psychological theories of human language have had a long but difficult history. Relational Frame Theory (RFT) is a throw back to the era of "big theories" in the area. RFT focuses on a core ability of human language development: the learned ability to derive relationships among events that are not bound by the formal properties of those events. RFT has been used in a wide range of areas: developing methods of assessing implicit cognition, assessing and training metaphorical reasoning, training self-awareness, fostering intellectual development, training language skills in disabled children, guiding psychotherapy development, and so on. As such it spans across the traditional areas of linguistics, from meaning making to language pragmatics.