

VBC 2025 Abstracts for Dr. Caio Miguel

Day 1

Verbal Behavior and Language Development: The Integrative Approach

Behavior analysts use principles of learning to teach a variety of skills to their clients, including verbal behavior. To effectively design teaching lessons, behavior analysts must understand the sequence by which elementary verbal operants and related skills are acquired by typically developing children. In this talk, I will draw on my 20 years of experimental and applied research on the development of bidirectional naming (BiN) and symbolic behavior to describe how clinicians can sequence early language training to produce meaningful outcomes. I will emphasize how children must learn to respond as listeners to their own speaker behavior to be able to learn incidentally and acquire more complex cognitive skills. This teaching approach integrates a behavioral understanding of child development, prioritizes selecting targets relevant to specific clients, and is both unstructured and highly reinforcing.

- Participants will be able to define bidirectional naming and describe its implication for generative learning.
- Participants will learn how to teach prerequisites for naming.
- Participants will be able to describe the characteristics of the integrative VB approach.

Day 2

The Generalization of Tacts

The tact is a type of verbal operant whose response form is under control of a non-verbal discriminative stimulus (SD). It seems to explain how we come to talk about or refer to the world around us. Tacts are seldom taught directly, rather they emerge as a product of listening to others talk about objects and events. Even though the topography of the tact is under functional control of a non-verbal SD, many discriminative and motivational variables may contribute to the emission of the response. Thus, the generalization of tacts can occur across variables responsible for its form (what is said) and variables responsible for its emission (when it is said). Additionally, the same non-verbal SD may evoke new tact topographies - a form of response generalization. The purpose of talk is to distinguish between different types of tact generalization, while describing the implications for practice.

- Participants will be able to define the tact, explain how it evolves, and describe the variables responsible for its emission.
- Participants will be able to describe how to promote generalization of tacts across variables responsible for their occurrence.
- Participants will be able to describe how to promote generalization of tacts across variables responsible for their form.