

**PLENARY SESSION – CULTURE, VALUES AND PROJECTS IN CLINICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS – 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

# **A functional Analytic Account of Perspective Taking**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Understanding the self and others is a complex form of cognition that has been the subject of much psychological and philosophical theorizing. Some researchers have suggested pre-wired organic processes while others view the development of these abilities as ‘experience driven’ or learnt. Much of the current literature links understanding the self and perspective taking to language. However, numerous questions remain unanswered concerning the functional determinants of language itself and perspective-taking. Relational Frame Theory is a functional analytic approach that accounts for the development of language and higher cognition in terms of learned generalized patterns of relational responding referred to as arbitrary relational responding (ARR). The current talk will focus on how empirically grounded and pragmatically oriented research is being applied to training self-understanding and perspective-taking in typically developing children as well as remediating deficits in these areas in the developmental clinical arena.

*Keywords: Perspective Taking, Relational Frame Theory, Autistic Spectrum Conditions, Contextual Behavioural Science*