Automatic Reinforcement: Repetitive Behavior and Anxiety

Friday, February 23, 2018
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Nesbitt Hall, Room 132
3215 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

This presentation will describe automatic reinforcement as a concept and repetitive behavior that is automatically reinforced including stereotypy and perseverative behavior associated with anxiety. Intensive behavior analytic intervention for children diagnosed with autism can produce large gains in social, cognitive, and language development. One critical area to address is repetitive behavior such as stereotypy. Some applied research on evaluating and treating stereotypic behavior will be reviewed, focusing on effective interventions for building core adaptive living and social skills, in addition to procedures for treating stereotypic behavior directly. Many persons with an ASD have limited vocal, verbal skills and sometimes their repetitive behavior is a product of automatic negative reinforcement and presents as anxiety or phobic responses. This presentation will also describe how these anxious responses can be distinguished from other problem behavior and can be treated by teaching relaxation skills and gradually exposing the person to the anxiety or phobia-inducing situations.

For more information contact
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