

## Re: R&M's "memory illusions" and functional verbal response classes

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SN: Consciousness is really a word with too many meanings. But when we talk about abstraction, then things can be a bit more precise. Several experiments have demonstrated such abilities in non human animals. In one of them, a monkey learned to derive, by itself, the concept of "equal" and "different".

GS: Really, Sergio? All by itself? So you're saying that there was no role played by the discrimination contingencies arranged by the experimenter? Since you, and those of your ilk, know nothing about behavior, you muddle virtually every topic you touch. And, as I told you before, non-human animals can respond in any of the general ways said to "show consciousness" but, of course, for some of them, they must be properly trained.

SN: I interpret these studies as suggesting that the kind of difference in abstraction abilities between humans and non human animals is more of a quantitative nature, rather than qualitative.

GS: Yeah, operant stimulus control and all the associated phenomena are relevant to many animals across phyla.

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