

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Categories and Cognition: Learning to Use and Using to Learn

**Brian H. Ross, Ph.D.**  
Department of Psychology  
University of Illinois

**Friday, November 7, 2008**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Martin Colloquium Center**  
**4127 Sennott Square**

Categories are essential for intelligent thought and action. They are useful because they provide a way of dividing up the world such that items in different categories require different inferences, actions, etc., in the course of meeting a person's goals. This goal-based perspective suggests that the focus on classification learning in current cognitive work may be missing some important aspects of category learning. I will provide an overview of research broadening the examination of category learning, including work on action, coherence, and indirect learning of categories. I will discuss the implications of these results for how we learn categories and how we represent and use everyday categories.

Reception to follow in Room 4125 Sennott Square