



## THE EMERGENCE OF SKILL

18 June 2024

9: 00 am<sup>(EDT, GMT-4)</sup>

Zoom

Registration:

<https://forms.gle/m5cEgyRaQ3vCez7B9>

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### ABSTRACT

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This talk will consider the ways in which skills emerge across development as individuals mature from children to adults. Examples will be presented from motor skills combined with work on language using brain science as well as developmental psychology. The presentation will conclude with a novel framework, Neurocomputational Emergentism, which focuses on how smaller skills continually combine and recombine into much larger skills across development.

### Prof. Arturo Hernandez

Professor, Department of Psychology,  
University of Houston

Arturo E. Hernandez is a professor of psychology at the University of Houston. His area of expertise is in the brain bases of bilingualism which has led to over 60 published journal articles. He is also the author of *The Bilingual Brain*, a book which describes how the mind and brain adapt to the use of two languages. He is the winner of multiple awards including the Wilhelm Bessel Research Award from the Humboldt Foundation in Germany and a Fulbright Global Scholar award. His area of research is informed by his own personal experience. As a child he was exposed to four languages in childhood and became proficient in two of them, English and Spanish. He learned Portuguese as a third language in early adulthood, and German in his 30's. He is also an avid tennis player, having competed in tournaments himself and spent time coaching his children. His work and personal experience has inspired him to study other complex skills including newer work with athletes and with math. This has led him to propose that learning in children and adults is an emergent function in which simple things are put together and become much more than the sum of their parts.

For this lecture of the **Emergentism, Ecosystem, and Expertise Talk Series**, the Discussants will be the series organizers: Catherine Caldwell-Harris, Arturo Hernandez, Ping Li, and Brian Macwhinney

Information on upcoming talks in this series can be found at [https://psyling.talkbank.org/E\\*3](https://psyling.talkbank.org/E*3).