

archives

J. Piaget



# Thinking, Reasoning, and Development

30 June – 2 July 2010

Uni Mail – Geneva

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## 19th Advanced Course

### Thinking, Reasoning, and Development

30 June – 2 July 2010

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Thursday morning, July 1, 2010

10h 00

H. Markovits, Université du Québec à Montréal

*The development of abstract conditional reasoning*

#### **Abstract:**

Conditional (if-then) reasoning is one of the most critical components of advanced reasoning. Within the Piagetian framework, such reasoning is one manifestation of formal operations. In theory, formal operational processes are independent of empirical knowledge. However, many studies have shown large effects of content on conditional reasoning with concrete premises. Reasoning with abstract premises is the purest form of formal operational conditional reasoning. Despite the lack of interference with empirical knowledge, very few university students can reason logically with abstract conditional problems. In this presentation, I will give an overview of Piagetian and non-Piagetian approaches to reasoning. I will then present a theoretical framework that claims that contrary-to-fact reasoning might be a bridge between concrete and abstract reasoning, and describe some studies that support this hypothesis.