

The University of Hong Kong
Department of Psychology

Departmental Seminar

Schizotypy and Paranoia in Middle Childhood

Date: December 17, 2015 (Thursday)
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Venue: CPD-3.29, Central Podium Level, Centennial Campus, HKU
Speaker: Dr. Keri K. Wong, Ph.D.
Betty Behrens Research Fellow
Clare Hall, Cambridge
Department of Psychology
University of Cambridge

Abstract

Schizophrenia is a disabling, neurodevelopmental disorder that affects approximately 1% of the population. Prevention research in schizophrenia has focused on schizotypy, a personality disorder that shares many of its symptoms and has been thought to be its intermediate condition. As a developmental psychologist by training, I am interested in developing childhood assessments and prevention strategies for schizophrenia through the understanding of schizotypy and paranoia. At this seminar, I will present evidence from the UK and Hong Kong on the development of paranoia (excessive unfounded suspiciousness) and schizotypy in children and adolescents (aged 8 to 14 years). In particular, I will elucidate the causes of childhood trust and mistrust and why is it an important area of research. I will also examine the social, behavioral, and cognitive correlates of childhood suspiciousness and schizotypy. I will also discuss on-going projects and what this means for teachers, parents, and educators.

About the speaker

Keri Wong currently holds the Betty Behrens Junior Research Fellowship at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge. She received her Bachelors (hons.) in Psychology and a

Masters in Criminology from the University of Pennsylvania, USA. More recently, she obtained her PhD from the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge. Her research intersects both Psychology and Criminology to examine the early developmental symptoms of paranoia and schizotypal personality disorder. Specifically, she has a keen interest in understanding the etiology of paranoia and schizotypy in relation to children's well being, internalizing and externalizing problem behaviors (i.e., antisocial behavior and aggression). Keri has extensive experience working with UK and Hong Kong schools for her PhD and has published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, Psychological Assessments, and the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology. She is also a supervisor and visiting lecturer for undergraduates in Psychology and Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

