

Deficits in Disengaging Attention from Threat Predict Improved Response to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Anxiety

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon | **January 13, 2016 (Wednesday)**

CPD-3.29, Central Podium Level | **Centennial Campus** | **The University of Hong Kong**



Dr. Tom Barry
University of Warwick, UK

Abstract

This talk is about the role of attention in the learning that takes place during treatment of anxiety disorders. In particular I'll be presenting data from a clinical investigation and an experimental analogue of treatment where we correlate the reduction of anxiety/fear during treatment and subsequent relapse with individual differences in attention biases at pre-treatment, and attention assessed with eye-tracking during our experimental analogue of treatment. The theoretical implications of these data will be discussed.

About the Speaker

Dr. Tom Barry graduated from University of Warwick, UK, with a degree in Psychology, before working as a social policy consultant for the British Government. Following this, Tom completed a Master's degree in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Reading, UK, whilst also working as an assistant psychologist at the NHS, Berkshire Child Anxiety Clinic. Tom then completed his doctorate in Experimental Psychopathology at the University of Leuven, Belgium. Towards the end of Tom's doctorate he completed a visiting fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.

Tom now works as a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, UK. His research interests concern the cognitive-behavioural mechanisms by which emotional disorders, such as anxiety disorders, emerge and are treated. In particular, Tom's research focuses on the development of new tools for treating anxiety disorders by modifying the way that people learn during treatment.

~All are Welcome~