



Department of Psychology  
The University of Hong Kong

香港大學心理學系

## Departmental Seminar

# Social Defeat and Psychosis Proneness: An Exploration of Underlying Mechanisms

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. | March 14, 2016 (Monday)

CPD-LG.08 | Central Podium Level | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong



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### Abstract

The Social Defeat Hypothesis is one of the most well received hypotheses about the link between environmental factors (e.g. childhood trauma) and psychotic disorder. Research in support of this hypothesis has tended to focus on associations between social defeat *experiences* and psychosis. Other facets of social defeat (e.g. related cognitive and affective mechanisms) have received little attention. The current work aimed to explore, in three studies, two such mechanisms, namely *perceptions* of social defeat (negative social comparisons) and *sensitivity* to social defeat, within a Chinese population, and their relations to psychosis proneness. Study 1 examined the psychometric properties of the Chinese Social Comparison scale (SCS-C) and its associations with measures of psychopathology. Study 2 employed the SCS-C, to examine the relationship between negative social comparisons and psychosis proneness, including moderators and familial associations. Study 3 developed and validated a Chinese translation of a novel experimental task (Digi-Spee-C) designed to induce a minor social defeat experience through mimicking an online social networking interaction. Together this research represents an important step forward in our understanding of the association between social defeat and psychosis, particularly for ethnically Chinese individuals.

~All are Welcome~

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