

Departmental Seminar

Early Androgen Exposure and Disorder-Relevant Traits

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | September 8, 2016 (Thursday)

Rm 813, 8/F, The Jockey Club Tower | Centennial Campus | The University of Hong Kong



Mr. Kung, Karson Tim Fung

PhD student

University of Cambridge

Abstract

Thousands of non-human mammal experiments have demonstrated that manipulations of androgenic hormones, such as testosterone, during the prenatal and early postnatal periods permanently alter subsequent neural development and the resultant behaviour that show sex differences. This body of evidence suggests a positive relationship between early androgen exposure and male-typical development. Based on this evidence and the male preponderance in autism, the Extreme Male Brain Theory of Autism argues that autism is the consequence of elevated androgen concentrations during early development. Some have also argued that early androgen exposure contributes to language difficulties. This talk will focus on past and recent research relating early androgen exposure to autistic traits and to language development. At the end of the talk, the speaker will provide a brief overview on his other lines of research on topics related to sex and gender.

About the Speaker

Mr. Kung, Karson Tim Fung received his BSc in Psychology from University College London (UCL), read Social and Developmental Psychology as an MPhil student at the University of Cambridge, and is currently a 2nd year PhD student in the Gender Development Research Centre at Cambridge. His research interests include: (1) the organising effects of early androgen exposure on gender-related psychopathology; (2) antecedents, correlates, and consequences of childhood gender typicality; (3) well-being of sexual orientation minorities, gender minorities, and individuals with intersex conditions; and (4) gender similarities and differences.

~All are Welcome~

Enquiry: iwwong@hku.hk | Dr. Ivy Wong