

Departmental Seminar

The Neuropsychological Relationships of Perceived Loneliness and Affective Functioning

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | September 7, 2017 (Thursday)

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



Mr. Wong Man Lok Nichol

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Individuals who perceive themselves as more lonely have altered affective functioning that may have an underlying neuropsychological basis. Feelings of loneliness are particularly intense during adolescence and understanding of perceived loneliness in adolescents will provide important insight into the neuropsychological basis of affective functioning in developing brains. Study 1 thus explored how perceived loneliness can be related to the brain's functional activations in response to emotional interferences in adolescents and Study 2 investigated how brain connectivity of the developing brains moderated the relationships between affect traits and perceived loneliness. Moreover, as perceived loneliness is a subjective feeling varying substantially across individuals, Study 3 was conducted to investigate the structural brain and perceived loneliness as mediators of the association between social isolation and levels of depression in healthy individuals. Last but not least, as perceived loneliness is also increased in the later stage of life and can be intense in elderly individuals suffering from depression, Study 4 studied the impact of perceived loneliness on affective processing in an elderly population with and without late-life depression. Overall, perceived loneliness, as a subjective feeling, has a significant impact on affective functioning in younger and older brains, amongst both healthy and clinical populations. Findings clearly reveal the significant implications of perceived loneliness on mental health.

~All are Welcome~