



Department of Psychology
The University of Hong Kong

香港大學心理學系

Brown Bag Lunchtime Seminar (Via Zoom)
(Theme: Cognition and Neuroscience)

Understanding Some Characteristics of Interpretation Bias in Anxiety and Depression

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | August 19, 2022 (Friday)



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Abstract

Interpretation Bias (IB) – namely the tendency to interpret emotionally ambiguous information in a positive or negative way – is a form of cognitive bias that has seen increasing interest in recent years, due to its potential transdiagnostic links with psychopathology. Interventions purposed at changing interpretation biases have even been developed in a bid to alleviate disorder symptoms. Despite such advancements however, the fundamental conceptualization of interpretation bias has yet to be well understood. Namely, while interpretation bias has been measured throughout the literature using a variety of paradigms, it is still not yet understood whether there are indeed different ‘types’ of IB differing in their automaticity or content matter for example, and the degree of their empirical overlaps. Moreover, longitudinal associations between interpretation bias and psychopathological symptoms remain somewhat unexplored. Three studies were conducted to address these research gaps. It was found that a response-time-based measure of IB did not correlate with a measure based on ambiguous scenario ratings, while a meta-analysis suggested that scenario-based measures may be associated most strongly with psychopathology. Furthermore, there did not appear to be a clear separation of interpretation bias for different content matter. It was also observed from longitudinal results that anxiety and depression symptoms predicted subsequent interpretation bias over a 3-month time period, but not vice versa. The aforementioned findings underscore the importance of such conceptualization research when addressing similar cognitive processes, as well as how these transdiagnostic processes could potentially improve our understanding of psychopathological comorbidity.

About the speaker

Andrew Yeung is finishing up his PhD study under the supervision of Dr. Cheung Sing-Hang. He is interested in how cognitive phenomena can maintain or even lead to the development of psychopathology.

Zoom

<https://hku.zoom.us/j/3951550048?pwd=SncvL3RYakEycUtpL29vdDJEdlEwdz09>

Meeting ID: 395 155 0048 | Password: psyc



~All are Welcome~

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