



Department of Psychology

The University of Hong Kong

香港大學心理學系

Oct  
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## Departmental Seminar (Via Zoom)

# Neurodevelopmental Phenotype of Bipolar Disorder: Insights from the NEMO Cohort



### Speaker

**Ms. Andréa Paysserand**

Institut de Neurosciences de la Timone  
Aix-Marseille University

**3:30p.m. – 4:30p.m.**

Via Zoom

Meeting ID: 698 555 5998

Password: Psyc

### About the talk:

Bipolar disorder (BD) is a highly heterogeneous psychiatric condition, with patients differing widely in age of onset, clinical symptoms, comorbidities, and treatment response. Current diagnostic classifications remain insufficient to explain this variability. To advance patient care, it is essential to identify more homogeneous subgroups, defined by valid biomarkers and tailored therapeutic strategies. Grounded in a neurodevelopmental hypothesis, recent research suggests that a subset of BD patients, particularly those with early onset, display neurodevelopmental alterations long before the emergence of BD. These individuals often present with multiple comorbidities and show resistance to lithium treatment. The NEMO clinical study at the Institut de Neurosciences de la Timone follows a cohort of BD patients to better characterize the neurodevelopmental phenotype at both the structural and metabolic brain levels. This presentation will discuss findings on structural brain differences and spectroscopic MRI features that further distinguish this phenotype, with the aim of improving understanding of BD heterogeneity and supporting the development of more effective prevention and intervention strategies.

### About the speaker:

Andréa Paysserand is currently a PhD student at the INT. Her research focuses on the neurodevelopmental origins of psychiatric disorders, especially mood disorders. Her doctoral work leverages advanced imaging techniques, behavioral and cognitive assessments, and the integration of medical and environmental data to identify determinants of mental health across neurodevelopment.

She is supervised by Dr. Antoine Lefrere (MD, PhD), the head of the Bipolar Center of Expertise in Marseille. Dr. Lefrere manages the care of over 500 patients with bipolar disorder each year. He is responsible for the network of expert bipolar centers associated with the French Mind cohort as part of the PEPR Pro Psy 2 initiative. His expertise includes comprehensive clinical phenotyping of BD using advanced MRI. Dr. Lefrere coordinates the NEMO clinical study, which investigates biomarkers of the neurodevelopmental phenotype in BD.

His contributions to psychiatric research have been recognized with the Albert Crémieux Research Prize from the AMU Faculty.

### Zoom Meeting

<https://hku.zoom.us/j/6985555998?pwd=V05yTGJWNTIzazd2OFZ0Q3FReHVkdz09>

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### Moderator

**Dr. Antoine Lefrere**

Institut de Neurosciences de la Timone  
Aix-Marseille University

~ All are Welcome ~

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