

IGSN - SYMPOSIUM

Monday, November 6th 2017 • 15.00 (3 pm)

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Trauma and memory distortions

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Images of Trauma and Imaging: from Experimental Psychopathology to fMRI and back

Mental imagery involves an experience like perception in the absence of a percept, such as “seeing in our mind’s eye”. Intrusive, affect-laden mental images cause distress across mental disorders - Intrusive memories that “flash back” to past trauma occur in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

My clinical research group has an interest in understanding and treating maladaptive mental imagery via psychological therapies as well as novel behavioural interventions (including computer gaming). To do this, we are curious about what we can learn from cognitive psychology and neuroscience to inform treatment development (e.g. Pearson et al, 2015, *TICS*). I will discuss recent work concerning using experimental trauma to study intrusive memory encoding (Clark et al, 2016, *Psych Med*); as well as behavioural studies which show disrupting memory re-consolidation via dual task interference to reduce the frequency of intrusive memories (James et al, 2015, *Psych Sci*). We will discuss translation of research to real world trauma – both for the prevention of intrusive memories soon after a traumatic event, and for older established memories of trauma. A broader vision for science-informed psychological treatment innovation will also be explored. I am looking forward to the opportunity to visit Bochum and colleagues in this field. Website: <http://ki.se/en/people/emihol>

Hosts:

NIKOLAI AXMACHER, OLIVER T. WOLF

Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience; Faculty of Psychology, Ruhr University Bochum

Guests are welcome!