



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences
**Melbourne School of
Psychological Sciences**

GRADUATE STUDENT COMPLETION SEMINAR

**The development of overt aggression across
adolescence: The role of temperamental
and environmental risk factors and the
contribution of overt aggression to the
emergence of antisocial psychopathology**

Presented by Stephen Halperin

Supervisors: Dr Paul Dudgeon, Prof Andrew Chanen, Prof Nick
Allen

Friday 31 Aug 2018, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Conference Room, Orygen Youth Health, 35 Poplar Road, Parkville

Stephen Halperin is a PhD candidate at the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences. He is also currently the Principal Clinical Psychologist at St Kilda Road Clinic, Community Psychiatry, Alfred Health. Stephen has almost 20 years experience in a variety of clinical, supervisory and managerial roles in tertiary mental health services. His interests in developmental models of antisocial psychopathology emerged from his clinical experiences across more than 10 years of work at Orygen Youth Health.

Aggression and violence causes untold damage to individuals, families and society and is associated with huge health and criminal justice costs. While some overt physical aggression is normative in early childhood, persistent aggression across childhood and adolescence is associated with the diagnosis of Conduct Disorder and a range of current and long-term problems. When significant aggression and antisocial behavior persists into adulthood and is associated with a broader pattern of problems, the diagnosis of Antisocial Personality Disorder is made.

This study will focus on the relationships between several known risk factors for overt aggression and antisocial psychopathology, specifically low effortful control (a temperamental risk factor) and callous and unemotional traits (a hypothesized primary factor within youth psychopathy) and certain family based factors, specifically aversive or critical parenting and their interactions, and the impact of these risk factors on the latent trajectories of overt aggression across adolescence. It is hypothesized that combinations of these temperamental and family based risk factors will predict much of the variation in overt aggression across adolescence. Further, it is hypothesized that the variation in overt aggression across adolescence will predict the emergence or maintenance of symptoms of Conduct Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder traits in early adulthood. Developing a better understanding of the etiological process involved in the development or maintenance of antisocial psychopathology across adolescence is essential for developing effective prevention and early intervention approaches and thus reducing the toll on society.

These seminars are free of charge. Visitors are welcome to attend.