

PhD Project Title:

MRI investigation of auditory verbal hallucinations in young people with borderline personality disorder

PhD Project Description:

Auditory verbal hallucinations occur in up to 50% of adults diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, even though these symptoms are not listed as part of the diagnostic criteria for this disorder. Recently there has been a renewed interest in the phenomenology of these auditory verbal hallucinations, and research findings suggest that the auditory verbal hallucinations in borderline personality disorder are similar to those found in psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia. Yet the neurobiological basis for these symptoms remains unknown, and little is known about these symptoms in young people with borderline personality disorder.

This PhD project uses MRI to investigate the neurobiological basis of auditory verbal hallucinations in youth with borderline personality disorder. It will compare auditory processing between youth aged 15-25 years with borderline personality disorder and first episode psychosis.

This project is attached to an existing NHMRC funded project grant. The student undertaking this research will work within a supportive team environment. Preference will be given to students who are self-directed and highly motivated. Prior experience in neuroscience related research is advantageous, but an MRI research background is not essential.

Institution: Centre for Youth Mental Health, The University of Melbourne;
Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health.

Supervisors: Prof Andrew Chanen, Dr Katherine Thompson, Prof Stephen Wood

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Scholarship Funding: Applicants are encouraged to apply for a Graduate Research Scholarship at the minimum. A range of scholarships are available through the University of Melbourne, including the Graduate Research Scholarship, and are listed at this link: <https://scholarships.unimelb.edu.au/>