

Title: can you remind me of the title I'm speaking to and how long this should be?

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Abstract

This editorial reflects on current methodological trends in translational research in mental health. It aims to build a bridge between two fields that are frequently siloed off from each other: interventional research and phenomenologically informed research. Recent years have witnessed a revival of phenomenological approaches in mental health, often – but not only – as a means of connecting the subjective character of experience with neurobiological explanatory accounts of illness. Rich phenomenological knowledge accrued in schizophrenia, and wider psychosis research, has opened up new opportunities for improving prediction, early detection, diagnosis, prognostic stratification, treatment and ethics of care. Novel qualitative studies of delusions and hallucinations have challenged longstanding assumptions about their nature and meaning, uncovering highly complex subjective dimensions that are not adequately captured by quantitative methodologies. Interdisciplinary and participatory research efforts, informed by phenomenological insights, have prompted revisions of pre-established narratives of mental disorder dominated by a dysfunction framework and by researcher-centric outcome measures. Despite these recent advances, there has been relatively little effort to integrate and translate phenomenological insights across applied clinical research, with the goal of producing more meaningful, patient-valued results. It is our contention that phenomenological psychopathology – as the basic science of psychiatry – represents an important methodology for advancing evidence-based practices in mental health, and ultimately improving real-world outcomes. Setting this project into motion requires a greater emphasis on subjectivity and the structures of experience, more attention to the quality and patient-centredness of outcome measures, and the identification of treatment targets that matter most to patients.

Biography

Matthew Broome is Chair in Psychiatry and Youth Mental Health, Director of the Institute for Mental Health at the University of Birmingham, Deputy Director for the Wellcome Trust Midlands Mental Health and Neuroscience PhD Programme, and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust. Matthew studied Pharmacology and Medicine at the University of Birmingham and trained in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital, Bethlem Royal Hospital, and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Matthew has a PhD in Psychiatry from the University of London and in Philosophy from the University of Warwick. He is series editor to the OUP series, *International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry* and deputy editor of *The British Journal of Psychiatry*. He co-edited *Risk Factors for Psychosis: Paradigms, Mechanisms, and Prevention*. (Elsevier Press, 2020), *The Oxford Handbook of Phenomenological Psychopathology*, (Oxford University Press, 2019), *The AMDP System: Manual for Assessment and Documentation of Psychopathology in Psychiatry*, (Hogrefe, 2017), *The Maudsley Reader in Phenomenological Psychiatry* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), and *Psychiatry as Cognitive Neuroscience: Philosophical Perspectives*, (Oxford University Press, 2009).

Matthew's research interests include youth mental health, the prodromal phase of psychosis, delusion formation, mood instability, neurodevelopmental disorders, functional neuroimaging, interdisciplinary methods, mental health humanities, and the philosophy of psychiatry. His research is funded by the Wellcome Trust, NIH, MRC, NIHR, and the Wolfson Foundation.