

**20th Annual Division of Forensic Psychology
Conference 2011 at the University of Portsmouth
22nd, 23rd & 24th June 2011**

Additional Workshop 1:

'Evolving the Face of a Criminal'

Dr Charlie Frowd, University of Central Lancashire
Wednesday 22nd June 0915 – 1200hrs Cost £65

“Witnesses and victims have an important part to play in solving crime.....For serious crime such as rape or murder, and in the absence of other evidence, they sometimes construct a picture of the criminal's face, an image known as a facial composite. The composite is forensic evidence that police use to locate a criminal, publishing it in newspapers and on TV crime programmes.

This workshop will explore the effectiveness of traditional approaches to face production: methods that allow a face to be constructed from individual facial features such as the eyes, nose and mouth. Although techniques now exist for improving image quality, this approach does not readily produce identifiable images. In fact, most eyewitnesses are not able to describe an offender's face in sufficient detail for a composite to be attempted in the first place, and so a different system is required. For the past 10 years or so, I have been carrying out research to assess and improve the effectiveness of interviewing and composite images. This has led to a system called EvoFIT. We will explore why this method is likely to be a better interface to memory, and review techniques that have allowed it to be effective. At least one of these techniques is counter-intuitive and contrary to a large body of research. EvoFIT will be used in the workshop to evolve a composite of an unfamiliar face.”

Dr Charlie Frowd has a degree in Psychology and Linguistics from the University of Wales, Bangor and an MSc in Neural Computation from the University of Stirling. In 1998, he completed a PhD in Psychology, also at Stirling, in the forensic area of facial composites, images constructed by witnesses and victims of crime used as part of police investigations. Dr Frowd has chartered status and is a senior lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire. He has been developing new techniques for improving the effectiveness of facial composites, including a new method for interviewing eyewitnesses, a new image format for presenting composites to the public, and a new composite system called EvoFIT. He has published about 30 articles in scientific journals and conference proceedings, and regularly presents research at academic conferences and to police working groups.

Early booking is recommended.

**Booking and further details of the conference: www.port.ac.uk/dfp2011
General enquiries: dfp2011@port.ac.uk**