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## Academic Seminars on Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Intellectual Disability

The Cerebra Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders will be hosting a series of academic seminars at the University of Birmingham beginning in May 2009. These seminars will be given by leading researchers and clinicians. The focus will be on recent research in the areas of neurodevelopmental disorders and intellectual disability.

The timetable for the seminars between May and July 2009 is detailed below. The seminars will take place on the Edgbaston campus of the University of Birmingham. For directions to the campus please see:

<http://www.about.bham.ac.uk/maps/edgbaston.shtml> .

The venue for the seminars will be Lecture Theatre 3 in the Law Building. Please see building R1 on the following campus maps:

[http://www.about.bham.ac.uk/images/B2661\\_edgbaston\\_all\\_zones3.pdf](http://www.about.bham.ac.uk/images/B2661_edgbaston_all_zones3.pdf)

<http://www.about.bham.ac.uk/images/b2661-edgbaston-red-zone.pdf>

Seminars will be held from 1pm-2pm on the following dates. Abstracts will follow.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

**Debbie Riby:** Newcastle University

### **How can tracking eye movements reveal the social phenotypes associated with Williams syndrome and Autism?**

**Dr. Debbie Riby**

**School of Psychology, Newcastle University**

Autism and Williams syndrome (WS) are neuro-developmental disorders associated with distinct social phenotypes and socio-cognitive skills. Whilst individuals with autism are typically characterised by social withdrawal, the social phenotype associated with WS involves hyper-sociability and a drive towards social interactions. I will present evidence from our recent eye tracking studies that illustrates how social attention supports the characteristics of these divergent social phenotypes. I will present three main empirical studies that build up a picture of atypical gaze behaviour in these groups.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

**Richard Hastings:** Bangor University

*Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention for children with autism: Extending the evidence base*

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May

**Michael Thomas:** Birkbeck College

*What can the study of developmental disorders tell us about the development of face recognition?*

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

**Anthony Isles:** Cardiff University

*Behavioural and cognitive abnormalities in a mouse model for PWS*

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

**Paul Wilner:** Swansea University

*Decision-making by people with intellectual disabilities*