

Doktorandprojekt 01

Phd Project Description from Sean Perrin

There is an opportunity for one or more PhD students to carry out research in the area of child clinical psychology. The overall aims of this research are to: 1) deepen our understanding of the factors that serve to maintain emotional disorders in youth (including those with comorbid disorders like ADHD and Autism); 2) to better describe the effects of these disorders on broader aspects of functioning (individual, family, social, school), on child and family quality of life (QoL), and (direct and indirect) healthcare spending; and 3) to improve outcomes in current treatments through personalizing treatments and targeting the relevant change processes in a more fine-grained, data-driven way, particularly with treatment non-responders. The research would focus on: 1) identifying transdiagnostic and disorder-specific factors that influence (predict, moderate, mediate) the severity and functional impact of commonly occurring childhood disorders, including the anxiety disorders (generalized anxiety disorder, separation anxiety, social and specific phobias), obsessive compulsive-related disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder, and depression; 2) modifying existing treatments to improve outcomes to better address these factors; 3) identifying therapist, treatment, and service delivery factors that influence outcomes; and 4) the development and validation of measure(s) to evaluate the impact of these disorders on children and families in terms of broad aspects of functioning (personal, family, peer, school), as well as the child and parents' quality of life (QoL), and associated health-economic impacts. For the first project(s), a wide range of potential variables can be investigated, drawing upon genetic, psychological, and neuroscience methods and models. Treatment will be primarily in the form of cognitive behavioral approaches. The proposed PhD project(s) is part of an ongoing programme of research carried out in partnership with clinical service providers, with possibilities for collaboration with other members of the psychology and medical faculties at Lund University and from other universities in Sweden and abroad.