

## Dr Michael Larkin BA PGCert Phd

Senior Research Tutor for Clinical Psychology  
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### About

My main roles involve teaching, supporting and supervising research on the clinical psychology doctorate, and organising the MRes Clinical Psychology course. I also supervise PhD students using qualitative research methods to explore experiences of psychological distress, recovery, relatedness and caring. My research interests are in these same areas.

### Qualifications

BA (Joint Hons) English Literature & Psychology; PGCert (Social Science Research Methods); PhD (Psychology).

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, MBPSS, Fellow of the NIHR School for Social Care Research.

### Teaching

I teach on the Clinical Psychology doctoral program, the MRes Clinical Psychology program, and the MSci Applied Psychology program.

### Postgraduate supervision

I have previously supervised PhDs by Michelle Palmer, Kuljit Heer and Rita Meneses to completion. I am currently working with the following PhD students: Tara Morrey, Jalix Lees, Sara Tookey, Divya Chadha, Phil Bushell, Jenny La Fontaine, Stephanie Kewley, and Fiona Lerigo. I also co-supervise some other doctoral students within the University, supporting them on phenomenological aspects of their wider projects (e.g. Meltem Budak, Emma Clarkson, Margaret Amankwah-Poku, Chris Wagstaff, Juliane Kloess). In addition, I supervise MRes placements and projects, and DClinPsy doctoral research projects.

### Research

I currently run a funded project for the **NIHR School for Social Care Research** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/dsa/clinical/projects/asc-ld/index.aspx>). I am also involved in funded projects for Epilepsy Action, NOTA, and an **action research project on hospitalisation in early psychosis** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/psychology/news-events/2013/26Apr-larkin-inpatient-psychiatric.aspx>), conducted in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust. I am involved in several of the University's interdisciplinary Institute of Applied Studies research initiatives ('**Interpersonal Narratives and Recovery** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/ias/workshops/2013/interpersonal-narratives-and-mental-health.aspx>), 'Communicating Mental Health,' and '**Health and Happiness** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/ias/workshops/2012/health-happiness.aspx>).') These programs build on links to colleagues in other Schools, notably **Prof Lisa Bortolotti** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/bortolotti-lisa.aspx>) (whose AHRC '**Epistemic Innocence** (<https://sites.google.com/site/epistemicinnocence/>)' project I will be contributing to) and **Prof Heather Widdows** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/widdows-heather.aspx>) in the School of Philosophy, and **Dr Jerry Tew** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/social-policy/tew-jerry.aspx>) in the School of Social Policy. From next year, I will also be contributing to Lisa Bortolotti's **PERFECT** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/ptr/departments/philosophy/news/2013/project-perfect.aspx>) project. I am a member of the Local Mental Health Research Network's new Clinical Research Group on 'Mental Wellbeing, Public Mental Health and Recovery,' the **Centre for the Study of Global Ethics** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/globalethics/index.aspx>), and the University's service-user research group, **Suresearch** (<http://www.suresearch.org.uk/>).

The topics and approaches which link these activities are:

Phenomenology and psychological methods; Relatedness & recovery; Culture & wellbeing (esp. re: psychological distress); Making sense of embodied experiences (e.g. empathy); Making sense of anomalous experiences (e.g. loss of control); Young people & families coping with distress & change; Experiences of psychological interventions & services; Working with interpreters.

### Other activities

I edit a webpage about **Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)** (<http://ipacommunity.tumblr.com/>).

I host this twitter feed: @ipanalysis

I am the West Midlands representative for the IPA network. **Email me** (<mailto:m.larkin@bham.ac.uk>) to find out about Experiential Psychology meetings in the West Midlands Group.

Find details of **IPA training events** (<http://www.ipa.bbk.ac.uk/news/events>).

### Publications

## Published

- Dennis, N. L., Larkin, M. and Derbyshire, S. W. G. (2013), 'A giant mess' – making sense of complexity in the accounts of people with fibromyalgia. *British Journal of Health Psychology*. doi: 10.1111/bjhp.12020
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- Dexter, G., Larkin, M., Newnes, C. (2011). A qualitative exploration of Child Clinical Psychologists' understanding of user involvement. *Clinical Child Psychology & Psychiatry*. DOI: 10.1177/1359104511400970
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- Rouf, K. Larkin, M., & Lowe, G. (2011). Making decisions about Parental Mental Health: an exploratory study of Community Mental Health Team staff. *Child Abuse Review*, 20: n/a. doi: 10.1002/car.1172
- Larkin, M., Eatough, V., & Osborn, M. (2011). Interpretative phenomenological analysis and embodied, active, situated cognition. *Theory and Psychology*, 21:3, 318 – 337. DOI 10.1177/0959354310377544
- Rostill, H., Larkin, M., Toms, A., Churchman, C. (2010). A shared experience of fragmentation: making sense of foster placement breakdown. *Clinical Child Psychology & Psychiatry*. doi:10.1177/1359104509352894
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