

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

M.A. in Psychology

PSYC 5240 Independent Study

**Examining the Changes in Stress Reactivity and
Aberrant Salience in Psychotic Patients in the
First Two Weeks of Treatment with Experience
Sampling Method**

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ABSTRACT

Aberrant salience and stress reactivity have always been regarded as important factors in concerning the development in psychosis. Even for patients that are in acute phase, they are also expected to have stress reactivity higher than average and experience aberrant salience. Yet, no researches have been conducted on whether these two construct would persist or change when patients are in treatment. This study used experience sampling method to assess the change of stress reactivity and aberrant salience in 16 acute patients. With multilevel regression analyses, it is found that stress reactivity increased significantly in the 14 days of antipsychotic treatment. While for aberrant salience, a significant decreasing trend was found in patients taking smaller amount of drug dosage, and a significant increasing trend was found in patients taking larger amount of drug dosage. The possibility of the change in aberrant salience mediating the change in stress reactivity in the 14 days of antipsychotic treatment was also investigated. No significant results were observed.