

# DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES PRESENTS



## The Transfer of Attachment Figures from Infancy to Adulthood: Who is the Most Important Person to You?

Drawing upon an evolutionary perspective, during an emergency situation or in times of distress, people tend to seek closeness to and emotional support from important persons in their lives. This type of relationship is called "attachment," and the important persons are usually parents during infancy and childhood, and a romantic partner in young adulthood and beyond. Although studies have relied on different methods to measure attachment in childhood and adulthood – through observational and self-report methods respectively – attachment as a psychological construct has been observed with much consistency from infancy to adulthood. This seminar introduces a developmental perspective in understanding the nature of attachment relationships, drawing upon research on toddlers, adolescents and young adults. Several questions are addressed: (1) Do toddlers show a preference toward the parent who is usually the main caregiver, or the parent to whom the toddlers are securely attached? (2) Do adolescents transfer their primary attachment figures directly from parents to romantic partners, or indirectly through friends? (3) When young adults experience a break-up in romantic relationship, do their parents resume the role of being their attachment figures? All in all, this seminar will provide an overview of the development of attachment relationships in the course of our lifespan.

**Psychology Seminar**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**Classroom 16**  
**2.30pm – 4.00pm**

**Refreshments will be served**



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Dr. Tomotaka Umemura received his undergraduate and postgraduate education at Stony Brook University and the University of Texas at Austin, followed by post-doctoral training in Czech Republic. Dr. Umemura is currently an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Education in Hiroshima University. His research focuses on the transfer of attachment figures from infancy to adulthood, and cross-cultural differences in the nature of attachment relationships.

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