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From Neurocognition to Social Cognition - A new Perspective of Work Rehabilitation
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Introduction
Unemployment was common among people with severe mental illnesses, while sustaining a job was the biggest challenging to them.   Apart from our traditional understanding on neurocognition, recent studies revealed that social cognition was stronger correlated with community functioning.   This project aimed at investigating neurocognitive functioning and social cognition of people with mental illness, and we further hypothesized that social cognition could provide us a new insight on work rehabilitation.

Objectives
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Methodology
The Matrics Consensus Cognitive Battery was used for measurement, covering seven cognitive domains, including: attention, speed of processing, working memory, verbal learning, visual learning, problem solving & reasoning and social cognition.   SPSS was used for data analysis; beside, in-depth interviews were conducted to investigate individual's difficulty in job sustaining.

Result
52 clients were recruited in the project in which 44 of them completed the assessment and preceded to data analysis.   The average age of client was 39.19 with average years of onset of 10.12.   Results indicated that 73% of subjects showed marked impairment in three or more cognitive domains.   Social cognition, Verbal Learning and Speed of processing were the three most poorly performed domains.   Results indicated that all the cognitive domains were highly correlated to each other in a statistically significant level except social cognition, while social cognition was only correlated with the domain score of visual learning.   Thus, our result findings indicated that there was a certain level of independence between social cognition and other neurocognitive domains. Specific case studies through in-depth interview found

that lack of awareness in social cues and cognitive bias in social interaction in workplace often led to their problems in sustaining the job.   Result of our project indicated that impairment in social cognition is common among people with severe mental illnesses. Besides, the independence between social cognition and neurocognition offered us a new insight on the design and expectation on work rehabilitation.   Future bridging program on social cognition and job maintenance skills was recommended to further enrich the current work rehabilitation services.