Title: Agency, Body Ownership & Metacognition across the Psychosis spectrum

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Abstract: 2.56

The sense of self is likely the most fundamental and profound construct of our consciousness. This basic sense of being in the world is thought to be grounded in two central facets: Sense of Agency (SoA) and Body Ownership (BO), regulating the boundaries between the self and the world. Patients suffering from psychosis often display self-disturbances including symptoms of irregular experiences of body and agency as well as deficient processing of self-other demarcation. Here I will present data from several studies, from both healthy and different patient populations, indicating the central role of abnormal prediction processes in forming self-disturbances across the schizophrenia spectrum. Specifically, I will show that psychosis patients have both domain specific and domain general deficits in sensorimotor predictions which impact their sense of agency over the body. Furthermore, metacognitive capacities relating to the processing of these sensorimotor signals differs across the psychosis spectrum, suggesting that basic disturbances of self may be further amplified by deficits in metacognitive insight. I will discuss how these findings support a hierarchical model of the sense of self in healthy and clinical populations.