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Emotion processing deficits in the different dimensions of psychometric schizotypy

STELLA G. GIAKOUMAKI

Department of Psychology, University of Crete, Greece

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Schizotypy refers to a personality structure indicating “proneness” to schizophrenia. Around 10% of the general population has increased schizotypal traits, they also share other core features with schizophrenia and are thus at heightened risk for developing schizophrenia and spectrum disorders. A key aspect in schizophrenia-spectrum pathology is the impairment observed in emotion-related processes. This review summarizes findings on impairments related to central aspects of emotional processes, such as emotional disposition, alexithymia, facial affect recognition and speech prosody, in high schizotypal individuals in the general population. Although the studies in the field are not numerous, the current findings indicate that all these aspects of emotional processing are deficient in psychometric schizotypy, in accordance to the schizophrenia-spectrum literature. A disturbed frontotemporal neural network seems to be the critical link between these impairments, schizotypy and schizophrenia. The limitations of the current studies and suggestions for future research are discussed.

Key words: Emotions, schizophrenia spectrum, schizotypy, affect recognition, prosody.

Stella G. Giakoumaki, Department of Psychology, University of Crete, Gallos University Campus, Rethymno 74100, Crete, Greece.

Tel: 0030-28310-77541; fax: 0030-28310-77578; e-mail: sgiakoumaki@uoc.gr

INTRODUCTION

Schizotypy refers to a personality structure specified by the presence of sub-threshold psychotic symptoms, and is suggested to indicate “proneness” or “liability” to schizophrenia and spectrum disorders (Lenzenweger & Korfine, 1995). Thus, increased schizotypal traits have been reported both in schizophrenia patients (Brosey & Woodward, 2015) and clinical (Debbané, Eliez, Badoud, Conus, Flückiger & Schultze-Lutter, 2015) or genetic (Prasad, Sanders, Sweeney *et al.*, 2009) high-risk populations. Schizophrenia and schizotypy also share a similar factor structure: the symptomatology of schizophrenia can be described within a three-factor model (Positive, Negative, and Disorganized symptoms; Arndt, Alliger & Andreasen, 1991; Liddle & Barnes, 1990) and schizotypy can be further analyzed into Cognitive-Perceptual or Positive, Interpersonal or Negative and Disorganized Schizotypal factors (Fossati, Raine, Carretta, Leonardi & Maffei, 2003; Raine, Reynolds, Lencz, Scerbo, Triphon & Kim 1994; Reynolds, Raine, Mellinger, Venables & Sarnoff, 2000; Wei, Chuhsing & Chaucer, 1997).

Interestingly, around 10% of the general population (Beauchaine, Lenzenweger & Waller, 2008) has elevated schizotypal traits, which are considered to place these individuals at heightened risk for developing schizophrenia and spectrum disorders (Chapman, Chapman, Kwapil, Eckblad & Zinser, 1994; Debbané *et al.*, 2015; Kwapil, Gross, Silvia & Barrantes-Vidal, 2013; Raine 1991). Schizotypal traits can be detected with interviews (e.g., Structured Interview for Schizotypy; Kendler, Lieberman & Walsh, 1989) or self-report scales, the latter being highly cost-effective. For this purpose, a wide number of reliable and valid self-report scales have been developed (e.g., the

Chapman Scales; Chapman, Chapman & Raulin, 1976; Chapman, Chapman & Raulin, 1978; the Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feeling and Experiences (O-LIFE; Mason, Claridge & Jackson, 1995; the Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire (SPQ); Raine, 1991; the Schizotypal Traits Questionnaire (STQ); Claridge & Broks, 1984). High schizotypal individuals in the general population are also reported to share core features of schizophrenia and spectrum disorders (e.g., Schizotypal Personality Disorder, SPD) such as: (a) impaired cognition (Giakoumaki, 2012); (b) neuroanatomical alterations (Ettinger, Meyhöfer, Steffens, Wagner & Koutsouleris, 2014); (c) genetic risk factors (Roussos, Bitsios, Giakoumaki *et al.*, 2013; Roussos, Giakoumaki & Bitsios, 2009; Roussos, Giakoumaki, Georgakopoulos, Robakis & Bitsios, 2011); (d) poor social functioning (Henry, Bailey & Rendell, 2008; Kwapil *et al.*, 2013); and (e) impoverished quality of life overall (Cohen & Davis, 2009; Xavier, Best, Schorr & Bowie, 2015).

A key aspect in schizophrenia (Horan, Blanchard, Clark & Green, 2008) and SPD pathology (Rosell, Futterman, McMaster & Siever, 2014) is the impairment observed in emotion-related processes, such as the experience, expression and identification of emotions. The neural substrates mediating/regulating emotion can be summarized into two main systems: the ventral system (encompassing the amygdala, insula, ventral striatum, and ventral regions of the anterior cingulate gyrus and prefrontal cortex) is responsible for the recognition of the emotional characteristics of stimuli and the consequent generation of affective responses; the dorsal system (comprising the hippocampus and dorsal regions of anterior cingulate gyrus and prefrontal cortex) is implicated in the regulation of emotions (Phillips, Drevets, Rauch & Lane, 2003). Structural and functional imaging studies have provided evidence for impairments in both of these systems in schizophrenia

(Phillips & Seidman, 2008) and SPD (Rosell *et al.*, 2014). Importantly, psychometrically high-schizotypal individuals also manifest diminished emotional experiences as well as attenuated expression and identification of emotions (Horan *et al.*, 2008; Phillips & Seidman, 2008), accompanied by abnormalities in the aforementioned brain circuitries (Phillips & Seidman, 2008).

The aim of this review is to summarize findings on impairments related to well-studied central aspects of emotional processes, such as emotional disposition, alexithymia, facial affect recognition (FER), and speech prosody, in the different facets (i.e., Positive, Negative and Disorganized) of psychometric schizotypy and to compare these with findings in the schizophrenia spectrum. Hence, a PubMed search was carried out with combinations of the search terms “schizophrenia,” “schizotypal,” “schizotypy,” “emotion,” “affect,” “facial affect recognition,” “alexithymia” and “prosody.” The search covered publications from 1990 until July 2015. Studies were selected if: (a) they were written in English; (b) schizotypal traits were assessed with self-report questionnaires; and (c) participants were free of any psychiatric diagnosis. A summary of the studies reviewed and their findings are presented in Table 1.

EMOTIONAL DISPOSITION

Emotional disposition (i.e., the tendency to experience a certain type of emotion) in the schizophrenia spectrum has often been evaluated with personality traits integral in schizotypy (e.g., anhedonia) or with other personality characteristics which are closely associated with schizotypy (e.g., harm avoidance). The present review focuses on emotional disposition as assessed with instruments examining directly the experience, expression or identification of emotions.

As regards patients with schizophrenia, they have been repeatedly reported to score higher than healthy controls in measures of Negative Affect (NA) along with lower scores in Positive Affect (PA) (Blanchard, Mueser & Bellack, 1998; Horan & Blanchard, 2003; Kiwanuka, Strauss, McMahon & Gold, 2014; Li, Lui, Geng *et al.*, 2015; Myin-Germeys, Delespaul & deVries, 2000; Sanchez, Lavaysse, Starr & Gard, 2014; Strauss, Wilbur, Warren, August & Gold, 2011; Tso, Grove & Taylor, 2014). Importantly, these features remain stable over time (Blanchard *et al.*, 1998), they are evident from the first episode (Li *et al.*, 2015; Mote, Minzenberg, Carter & Kring, 2014), they interfere with patients' daily living (Abram, Karpouzian, Reilly, Derntl, Habel & Smith, 2014; Tabak, Green, Wynn, Proudfit, Altshuler & Horan, 2015) and are also observed in their unaffected relatives (Docherty, Sponheim & Kerns, 2015).

The majority of studies assessing emotional disposition in psychometric schizotypy have three major common attributes: (a) the Chapman Scales (Chapman *et al.*, 1976, 1978) are used for the assessment of schizotypy; (b) a “group-wise” comparison approach is employed, whereby participants scoring above certain cut-off criteria are considered “schizotypal” and are compared with subjects who do not meet this criterion; and (c) these groups are formed based on scores in the Social Anhedonia (SocAnh) scale. Thus, high SocAnh groups have been found to present with, increased NA along with decreased PA scores (Blanchard, Collins, Aghevli, Leung & Cohen, 2011; Gooding, Davidson, Putnam & Talent, 2002; Gooding, Johnson & Peterman, 2010;

Gooding & Tallent, 2003; Leung, Couture, Blanchard, Lin & Llerena, 2010), higher frequencies of NA and lower intensities of PA (Kerns, Docherty & Martin, 2008) and lower emotional expressivity (Leung *et al.*, 2010); they also ignore more and focus less on positive feelings while at the same time they focus more on negative feelings (Martin, Becker, Cicero, Docherty & Kerns, 2011) and they experience less anticipatory and consummatory pleasure (Martin *et al.*, 2011).

Reduced anticipatory and consummatory pleasure have also been associated with other facets of schizotypy, as in a study using the SPQ (Raine, 1991), Shi, Wang, Cao *et al.* (2012) reported that highly Negative schizotypal individuals score lower in these measures. Berenbaum, Boden, Baker, Dizen, Thompson and Abramowitz (2006) also used the SPQ and found negative associations between Positive, Negative and Disorganized schizotypy with emotional clarity while attention to emotions correlated negatively only with Positive and Negative schizotypy; positive correlations between NA and all SPQ factor scores as well as between affect intensity and Positive and Disorganized schizotypy were also found in this study. Kwapił, Brown, Silvia, Myin-Germeys and Barrantes-Vidal (2012) also differentiated between Positive and Negative schizotypy using the Wisconsin Schizotypy Scales and found that increased Positive Schizotypy was associated with increased NA while increased Negative schizotypy was associated with reduced PA in everyday life experiences. Kerns and Becker (2008) focused on disorganized schizotypy and found that individuals scoring high in this dimension also score high in ambivalence, which is associated with difficulties in identifying feelings and emotional confusion.

Finally, Kerns (2005) reported that high scorers in Positive schizotypy (i.e., high scorers in either Magic Ideation or Perceptual Aberration) score higher than controls in NA and in the attention paid to emotions experienced but they score lower in clarity of emotions. In a study employing confirmatory factor analyses, Kerns (2006) administered the Chapman Scales and a range of trait affectivity scales. The schizotypy subscales were organized into three factors, namely Positive, Negative and Disorganized schizotypy, while the metrics of the affectivity scales were organized into two factors, namely Emotionality (consisting of attention paid to emotions experienced, intensity of emotions and influence of emotion on judgment and behaviour) and Emotional Confusion (consisting of ambivalence and clarity of emotions). He found positive associations between Disorganized and Negative schizotypy with emotional confusion, while increased Disorganized schizotypy was also associated with increased emotionality; the opposite pattern was found for Negative schizotypy (i.e., increased Negative schizotypy was associated with decreased emotionality).

ALEXITHYMIA

Alexithymia was first described by Nemiah and Sifneos (1970) and refers to difficulties in recognizing, identifying, and describing one's own emotions. Volumetric (Borsci, Boccardi, Rossi *et al.*, 2009; Grabe, Wittfeld, Hegenscheid *et al.*, 2014; Gündel, López-Sala, Ceballos-Baumann *et al.*, 2004; Ihme, Dannlowski, Lichev *et al.*, 2013; Liemburg, Swart, Bruggeman *et al.*, 2012; Paradiso, Vaidya, McCormick, Jones & Robinson,

Table 1. Studies assessing emotional disposition, alexithymia, facial affect recognition and speech prosody in psychometric schizotypy

Study	Participants N (males/females); mean age (years) ± SD	Design	Assessment of schizotypy	Assessment of emotion		
				Task/scale	Stimuli	Outcome measures
<i>Emotional disposition</i> Gooding <i>et al.</i> (2002)	SocAnh: N = 36 (17/19); 18.97 ± 1.03 Con: N = 39 (20/19); 18.95 ± 0.94	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	Chapman scales	PANAS	20 emotional (10 positive & 10 negative) words; subjects rated the extent experiencing each emotion As in Gooding <i>et al.</i> (2002)	PA/NA subscale scores PA: SocAnh < Con (P < 0.01) NA: SocAnh > Con (P < 0.01)
Gooding & Tallent (2003)	SocAnh: N = 43 (18/25); 18.72 ± 1.03 Con: N = 39 (11/28); 18.69 ± 0.69	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	Chapman scales	PANAS		PA/NA subscale scores PA: SocAnh < Con (P < 0.01) NA: SocAnh > Con (P < 0.01)
Kerns (2005)	PoS: N = 34 (14/20); 18.70 ± 1.10 Con: N = 56 (28/28); 18.90 ± 1.30	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	Chapman scales	AIM	As in Berenbaum <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Affect intensity score PoS = Con (P > 0.06)
Berenbaum <i>et al.</i> (2006)	College students: N = 247 (48.80%/ 51.20); 18.90 ± 1.40 Community group: N = 225 (47.60%/52.40); 43.90 ± 17.10	Cross-sectional (Correlational approach)	SPQ	TMMS	As in Berenbaum <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Emotional clarity subscale score Attention subscale score NA subscale score Emotional clarity: PoS < Con (P < 0.001) Attention: PoS > Con (P < 0.05) PoS > Con (P < 0.01)
				PANAS	As in Gooding <i>et al.</i> (2002)	Emotional clarity subscale score (10 items assessing the degree individuals understand/identify their feelings) Attention subscale score (14 items assessing the amount of awareness/thought individuals allocate to their emotions) PA/NA subscale scores NA: Positive correlations with all factor scores in the college sample; positive correlations with PoS and NeS in the community sample (Ps < 0.01)
				TMMS	48-item scales assessing trait meta- mood	Emotional clarity subscale score (10 items assessing the degree individuals understand/identify their feelings) Attention subscale score (14 items assessing the amount of awareness/thought individuals allocate to their emotions) PA/NA subscale scores NA: Positive correlations with all factor scores in the college sample; positive correlations with PoS and NeS in the community sample (Ps < 0.01)
				PANAS	As in Gooding <i>et al.</i> (2002)	Emotional clarity subscale score (10 items assessing the degree individuals understand/identify their feelings) Attention subscale score (14 items assessing the amount of awareness/thought individuals allocate to their emotions) PA/NA subscale scores NA: Positive correlations with all factor scores in the college sample; positive correlations with PoS and NeS in the community sample (Ps < 0.01)
				AIM	40-item questionnaire measuring trait levels of affect intensity	Affect intensity score Positive correlations with PoS and DiS in the college sample (Ps < 0.01)

(continued)

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Participants N (males/females); mean age (years) \pm SD	Design	Assessment of schizotypy	Assessment of emotion		
				Task/scale	Stimuli	Outcome measures
Kerns (2006)	College students; N = 261 (42% / 58%); 18.70 \pm 1.20	Cross-sectional (Correlational approach)	Chapman scales	TMMS	As in Berenbaum <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Emotional clarity subscale score Attention subscale score
				SAS	19-item scale measuring emotional confusion	Emotional clarity: Positive correlation with DiS ($P < 0.05$) Attention: Negative correlation with NeS ($P < 0.05$) Positive correlations with DiS and NeS (P s < 0.05)
				AIM	As in Berenbaum <i>et al.</i> (2006)	Affect intensity
				PMPI	10-item scale measuring influence of emotion on thinking and behavior under stress	Negative correlation with NeS ($P < 0.05$) Positive correlation with DiS ($P < 0.05$)
Kerns & Becker (2008)	DiS: N = 32 (14/18); 18.50 \pm 1.10 Con: N = 34 (15/19); 18.80 \pm 1.30	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	Cognitive Slippage scale	SAS	As in Kerns (2006)	Total score
Kerns <i>et al.</i> (2008)	SocAnh: N = 41 (14/27); 18.70 \pm 1.20 PerMag: N = 30 (13/17); 18.60 \pm 1.20 Con: N = 30 (10/20); 18.60 \pm 1.20	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	Chapman scales	DRM	Individuals are asked to reconstruct all that happened to them on the previous day and to divide their experiences into discrete episodes. Then, they are asked to rate how they felt during each episode.	Intensity and frequency of affective states scores
Gooding <i>et al.</i> (2010)	SocAnh: N = 64 (42/22); 19.48 \pm 2.51 PerMag: N = 76 (48/28); 19.18 \pm 2.19 Con: N = 110 (48/62); 19.01 \pm 1.40	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	Chapman scales	PANAS	As in Gooding, Davidson, Putnam & Tallent (2002)	PA: SocAnh < Con and PerMag > Con (P s < 0.05) NA: SocAnh & PerMag > Con (P s < 0.01)
Leung <i>et al.</i> (2010)	SocAnh: N = 34 (all females); 18.24 \pm 0.61 Con: N = 45 (all females); 18.11 \pm 0.32	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	RSAS	GTS	90-item scale assessing trait affectivity	Trait PA/NA scores
						PA: SocAnh < Con ($P < 0.05$) NA: SocAnh = Con ($P > 0.05$)

(continued)

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Participants N (males/females); mean age (years) \pm SD	Design	Assessment of schizotypy	Assessment of emotion		
				Task/scale	Stimuli	Outcome measures
Blanchard <i>et al.</i> (2011)	SocAnh: N = 86 (43%/57%); 18.00 Con: N = 89 (46.10% /53.90%); 18.00	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	SocAnh Scale	EES	17-item that is a general index for outward expressivity	Positive/Negative expressivity
				BEQ	16-item questionnaire assessing the general strength of emotion- response tendencies and the degree these tendencies are typically expressed as overt behaviour.	SocAnh < Con (P < 0.01) SocAnh < Con (Ps < 0.05)
Martin <i>et al.</i> (2011)	SocAnh: N = 54 (19/34); 18.75 \pm 1.65 PerMag: N = 27 (11/16); 18.40 \pm 0.58 Con: N = 304 (124/180); 18.70 \pm 1.02	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	RSAS PerAb MagicId	GTS	As in Leung, Couture, Blanchard, Lin & Llerena (2010)	Trait PA/NA PA: SocAnh < Con (P < 0.001) NA: SocAnh > Con (P < 0.001)
				FAST	16-item scale assessing attention to positive and negative emotions	Focus/Ignore Positive/ Negative Feelings scores Focus on positive feelings: SocAnh < Con (P < 0.001) Ignore positive feelings: SocAnh > Con (P < 0.01) Focus on negative feelings: SocAnh & PerMag > Con (Ps < 0.001) Ignore negative feelings: PerMag > Con (P < 0.05) Anticipatory pleasure: SocAnh < Con (P < 0.05) Consummatory pleasure: SocAnh < PerMag & Con (Ps < 0.05) PoS was associated with increased reports of NA (P < 0.001) NeS was associated with decreased reports of PA (P < 0.001)
Kwapil <i>et al.</i> (2012)	N = 412 (102/310); 19.90 \pm 2.90	Cross-sectional (Regression approach)	Wisconsin Schizotypy scales	TEPS	18-item scale measuring anticipatory and consummatory pleasure	Anticipatory/ Consummatory pleasure scores
				ESMQ	A within-day self assessment technique in which participants are prompted at random intervals to complete brief questionnaires	PA/NA subscale scores PoS was associated with increased reports of NA (P < 0.001) NeS was associated with decreased reports of PA (P < 0.001)
Shi <i>et al.</i> (2012)	NeS: N = 55 (35/20); 18.39 \pm 0.85 PoS: N = 62 (32/30); 18.48 \pm 0.82 Con: N = 116 (75/41); 18.56 \pm 0.79	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	SPQ	TEPS	As in Martin <i>et al.</i> (2011)	Anticipatory/ Consummatory pleasure scores Anticipatory pleasure: NeS < Con and PoS > NeS & Con (Ps < 0.05) Consummatory pleasure: PoS > NeS & Con (Ps < 0.001)

(continued)

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Participants N (males/females); mean age (years) \pm SD	Design	Assessment of schizotypy	Assessment of emotion		
				Task/scale	Stimuli	Outcome measures
<i>Alexithymia</i> Prince & Berenbaum (1993)	Undergraduate students: N = 119 (66/53); 19.00 \pm 1.10 Community sample: N = 54 (27/27); 33.70 \pm 0.30	Cross-sectional (Correlational approach)	RSAS PhysAnh SocAnh	EES	As in Leung <i>et al.</i> (2010)	Suppression of emotions: NeS < PoS < Con (P s < 0.001) Expression of emotions: PoS > Con; NeS < Con (P s < 0.05) Total score: NeS < Con & PoS (P s < 0.001)
				TAS-20	20-item scale assessing alexithymia	Difficulties in identifying/ Communicating Feelings Identifying feelings: Positive correlation with SocAnh (P < 0.05) in the community sample Communicating feelings: Positive correlations with PhysAnh and SocAnh in both samples (P s < 0.05) SocAnh group > Con (P < 0.001)
Gooding & Tallent (2003)	SocAnh: N = 43 (18/25); 18.72 \pm 1.03 Con: N = 39 (11/28); 18.69 \pm 0.69	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	Chapman Scales	TAS-20	As in Prince & Berenbaum (1993)	Total score
van 't Wout <i>et al.</i> (2004)	High SCT: N = 20 (male/female ratio: 1/4); 21.65 \pm 2.43 Low SCT: N = 20 (male/female ratio: 1/1.5); 22.75 \pm 3.73	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	LSHS SPQ	BVAQ	40-item scale assessing alexithymia	Emotionalizing/ Analyzing/ Verbalizing/ Fantasizing/ Identifying feelings subscale scores Fantasizing and Emotionalizing: High SCT group < Low SCT group (P s < 0.05)
Larøi <i>et al.</i> (2008)	N = 107 (46% /54%); 22.20 \pm 2.40	Cross-sectional (Correlational approach)	SPQ	BVAQ	As in van 't Wout <i>et al.</i> (2004)	Fantasizing, Emotionalizing & Analyzing feelings: negative correlations with PoS & DiS (P s < 0.05) Identifying feelings: positive correlation with NeS (P < 0.01) Positive correlation with O- LIFE total score (P < 0.01)
Rus-Calafell <i>et al.</i> (2013)	N = 98 (34.30% /65.70%); 32.58 \pm 9.23	Cross-sectional (Correlational approach)	O-LIFE	TAS-20	As in Prince & Berenbaum (1993)	Total score
<i>Facial Affect Recognition</i> Poreh <i>et al.</i> (1994)	SCT group: N = 20 (all males); 22.00 \pm 0.90 Con: N = 20 (all males); 22.70 \pm 1.10	Cross-sectional (between-group comparisons)	Chapman scales	Facial Affect Recognition	Photographs depicting angry, happy, or surprised faces were presented. Subjects	Errors SCT group > Con (P s < 0.005)

(continued)

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Participants N (males/females); mean age (years) \pm SD	Design	Assessment of schizotypy	Assessment of emotion		
				Task/scale	Stimuli	Outcome measures
van 't Wout <i>et al.</i> (2004)	N = 200 (79 males/120 females); 20.90 \pm 4.50 High SCT: N = 20 (male/ female ratio: 1/4); 21.65 \pm 2.43 Low SCT: N = 20 (male/female ratio: 1/1.5); 22.75 \pm 3.73)	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons & Correlational approach)	LSHS SPQ	Degraded facial affect recognition task	were asked to report which affect they detected from a display board containing the stimuli after each presentation 64 trials consisting of face photographs with reduced visual contrast by 30% in each of four conditions (angry, happy, fearful, neutral) were presented. Subjects were asked to indicate the expression of each face as accurately as possible.	Errors High SCT = Low SCT ($P > 0.05$) Positive correlation with PoS in classifying angry faces as happy ($P < 0.001$)
Williams <i>et al.</i> (2007)	High SCT: N = 28 (9/19); 18.80 \pm 3.01 Low SCT: N = 28 (5/23); 19.60 \pm 3.50)	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	SPQ-B	Ekman 60 Faces Test	60 items were presented in random order and participants were required to choose a label that best described the emotion of each face.	Correct responses High SCT > Low SCT ($P < 0.05$)
Brown & Cohen (2010)	SCT group: N = 89 (30.30% / 69.70%); 19.19 \pm 1.39 Con: N = 27 (48.10% / 51.90%); 19.81 \pm 3.25	Cross-sectional (Between-group comparisons)	SPQ	PERT	Items included high and low intensity angry, fearful, happy, sad, and neutral faces. Participants were asked to choose which emotion is being expressed from a list of six choices (happy, sad, disgust, fear, anger, no emotion).	Accuracy SCT group < Con group in identifying neutral faces ($P < 0.01$)

(continued)

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Participants N (males/females); mean age (years) \pm SD	Design	Assessment of schizotypy	Assessment of emotion		
				Task/scale	Stimuli	Outcome measures
Germine & Hooker (2011)	Experiment 1: N = 2332 (32% /68%); 29.10 \pm 11.50 Experiment 2: N = 1514 (38% /62%); 29.30 \pm 10.60	Cross-sectional (Regressions approach)	SPQ-B	Experiment 1: Emotion identification Experiment 2: Emotion discrimination	Experiment 1: Stimuli were faces morphed between a neutral and an emotional expression (happy, disgusted, angry, fearful). Participants were required to identify the emotion expressed. Experiment 2: Face pairs were presented sequentially. Participants were required to indicate whether the two faces were expressing the same or different emotion.	Experiment 1: PoS, NeS and DiS predicted identification of happy, angry and fearful faces (P s < 0.05) Experiment 2: PoS, NeS and DiS predicted correct emotion discrimination (P s < 0.05)
Abbott & Green (2013)	N = 50 (23/27); 21.76 \pm 5.41	Cross-sectional (Correlational approach)	SPQ	Emotion recognition	Colour photographs of face stimuli were presented. Participants were required to select the word most suited (out of seven emotion labels, i.e. happy, sad, anger, fear, disgust, surprise, neutral) to describe the emotion on each face.	Accuracy Negative correlation with NeS (P < 0.005)
<i>Speech Prosody</i> Cohen <i>et al.</i> (2009)	SCT group: N = 89 (28/61); 19.11 \pm 1.38 Con: N = 26 (12/14); 19.81 \pm 3.31	Cross-sectional (between-group comparisons)	SPQ	CANS	Subjects were asked to discuss their reactions to emotionally valenced pictures (positive, negative and neutral) from the International Affective Picture System	Expressivity score Schizotypal group = Control group (P s > 0.05)

(continued)

Table 1 (continued)

Study	Participants N (males/females); mean age (years) \pm SD	Design	Assessment of schizotypy	Assessment of emotion			Results
				Task/scale	Stimuli	Outcome measures	
Cohen & Hong (2011)	SCT group: N = 89 (14/75); 19.19 \pm 1.39) Con: N = 26 (12/14); 19.23 \pm 1.18)	Cross-sectional (Between group comparisons and correlational approach)	SPQ	CANS	As in Cohen <i>et al.</i> (2009)	Fundamental frequency (the lowest harmonic tone in semitones) Inflection (the variability in fundamental frequency) Intensity (the volume in decibels expressed during voiced frames) Total prosody score Sensitivity in detecting prosody	No between-group differences ($P > 0.640$) Constricted affect correlated negatively with Fundamental frequency, Inflection and Total prosody scores (P s < 0.05)
Castro & Pearson (2011)	High SCT: N = 64 Low SCT: N = 68	Cross-sectional (Between group comparisons)	SPQ	Dichotic listening stimuli	The words "dower", "tower", "power" and "bower" pronounced in four different emotional tones (happy, sad, angry, neutral).		Low SCT $>$ High SCT ($P < 0.005$)
Bedwell <i>et al.</i> (2014)	N = 44 (22/22);: 20.00 \pm 4.83	Cross-sectional (regressions approach)	SPQ	Autobiographical narratives	Speech samples were obtained from autobiographical narrative prompts.	Intonation (variability in the pitch of speech) Variability in volume of speech (lower values represent more monotonous speech)	Increased ideas of reference predicted lower variability in volume of speech ($P < 0.05$)

Notes: Con: Control group; PerMag: Perceptual Aberration-Magical Thinking group; SocAnh: Social Anhedonia group; SCT: Schizotypy; AIM: Affect Intensity Measure; BEQ: Berkeley Expressivity Questionnaire; BVAQ: Bermond-Vorst Alexithymia Questionnaire; CANS: Computerized Assessment of affect from Natural Speech; DiS: Disorganized schizotypy; DRM: Day reconstruction method; EES: Emotional Expressivity Scale; ESMQ: Experience Sampling Methodology Questionnaire; FAST: Following Affective States Test; GTS: General Temperament Survey; LSHS: Laune-Slade Hallucination Scale; MagIcd: Magical Ideation Scale; NA: Negative Affect; NeS: Negative Schizotypy; O-LIFE: Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feelings and Experiences; PA: Positive Affect; PANAS: Positive and Negative Affect Schedule; PerAb: Perceptual Aberration Scale; PERT: Penn Emotion Recognition Test; PhysAnh: Physical Anhedonia Scale; PMPI: Perceived Modes of Processing Inventory; PoS: Positive schizotypy; RSAS: Revised Social Anhedonia Scale; SAS: Schizotypal Ambivalence Scale; SCT: Schizotypy; SPQ: Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire; SPQ-B: Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire; TAS-20: Toronto Alexithymia Scale; TEPS: Temporal Experience of Pleasure Scale; TMMS: Trait Meta-Mood Scale.

2008) and functional (Berthoz, Artiges, Van De Moortele *et al.*, 2002; Jongen, Axmacher, Kremers *et al.*, 2014; Karlsson, Näätänen & Stenman, 2008; Reker, Ohmann, Rauch *et al.*, 2010) imaging studies have implicated a disturbed frontotemporal network in alexithymic individuals, encompassing regions also found to dysfunction in schizophrenia (Fahim, Stip, Mancini-Marie *et al.*, 2005; Habel, Klein, Shah *et al.*, 2004; Meisenzahl, Koutsouleris, Bottlender *et al.*, 2008; Suzuki, Zhou, Takahashi *et al.*, 2005; Yamasue, Iwanami, Hirayasu *et al.*, 2004), SPD (Goldstein, Hazlett, New *et al.*, 2009; Hazlett, Buchsbaum, Haznedar *et al.*, 2008; Kawasaki, Suzuki, Nohara *et al.*, 2004; Koo, Dickey, Park *et al.*, 2006; Suzuki *et al.*, 2005; Zhang, Shen, Wu *et al.*, 2014) and psychometric schizotypy (DeRosse, Nitzburg, Ikuta, Peters, Malhotra & Szeszko, 2015). However, despite the solid evidence of increased alexithymic traits in schizophrenia patients (Cedro, Kokoszka, Popiel & Narkiewicz-Jodko, 2001; Kubota, Miyata, Sasamoto *et al.*, 2012; Kubota, Miyata, Hirao *et al.*, 2011; van 't Wout, Aleman, Bermond & Kahn, 2007), their siblings (van 't Wout *et al.*, 2007), individuals at clinical high-risk for psychosis (van Rijn, Schothorst, Wout *et al.*, 2011) and SPD patients (Dickey, Vu, Voglmaier *et al.*, 2012), the relationship between psychometric schizotypy and alexithymia is largely unexplored.

Two scales, the Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20; Bagby, Parker & Taylor, 1994) and the Bermond-Vorst Alexithymia Questionnaire (BVAQ; Vorst & Bermond, 2001), are the most common instruments for the assessment of alexithymia. Using the TAS-20, Gooding and Tallent (2003) found that individuals scoring high in Social Anhedonia also score higher than controls in the scale. Rus-Calafell, Gutiérrez-Maldonado and Frerich (2013) employed a correlational approach and found positive associations between O-LIFE and TAS-20 score. Prince and Berenbaum (1993) employed a more detailed approach in the TAS-20 scores and reported positive associations between Social Anhedonia and problems in the identification and communication of feelings; increased physical anhedonia also correlated with diminished ability to communicate feelings. Using the BVAQ, van 't Wout, Aleman, Kessels, Larøi and Kahn (2004) found that high scorers in a positive schizotypy scale had lower scores in the capacity to be aroused by emotionally charged events as well as positive correlations between all metrics of the SPQ and difficulties in the identification of emotions. Using the SPQ, Larøi, Van der Linden and Aleman (2008) replicated the aforementioned negative association between the ability to be aroused by events inducing emotions and Positive schizotypy; they also found that this holds true for Disorganized schizotypy as well.

FACIAL EMOTION RECOGNITION

Impaired emotion recognition in schizophrenia was reported quite early and several studies have indicated that this impairment is evident during all phases of the illness (Addington & Addington, 1998; Addington, Penn, Woods, Addington & Perkins, 2008; Kucharska-Pietura, David, Masiak & Phillips, 2005; Lee, Bang, Kim *et al.*, 2015; Pinkham, Penn, Perkins, Graham & Siegel, 2007; Wölwer, Streit, Polzer & Gaebel, 1996; Yalcin-Siedentopf, Hoertnagl, Biedermann *et al.*,

2014), that it is stable over time (Addington, Saeedi & Addington, 2006; Comparelli, Corigliano, De Carolis *et al.*, 2013; Hamm, Renard, Fogley *et al.*, 2012), that it is heritable (Gur, Nimgaonkar, Almasy *et al.*, 2007) and that it is also evident in individuals at risk for the disorder (Addington *et al.*, 2008; Bediou, Asri, Brunelin *et al.*, 2007; Corcoran, Keilp, Kayser *et al.*, 2015; Kee, Horna, Mintz & Green, 2004) as well as in SPD patients (Dickey, Panych, Voglmaier *et al.*, 2011; Waldeck & Miller, 2000). Studies assessing Facial Emotion Recognition (FER) in schizophrenia outnumber those assessing emotion recognition with other paradigms, possibly because FER is closely associated to social cognition (Lee, Koo, Song *et al.*, 2014), a key-aspect of the schizophrenic pathology (Green, Olivier, Crawley, Penn & Silverstein, 2005). FER is mediated by a distributed neural network encompassing the orbitofrontal cortex, amygdala, inferior frontal gyri, lateral fusiform gyrus and superior temporal sulcus (Adolphs, 2002; Bortolon, Capdevielle & Raffard, 2015). Studies in schizophrenia (Aleman & Kahn, 2005; Habel *et al.*, 2010; Mier, Lis, Zygodnik *et al.*, 2014) have identified abnormalities in these brain regions during FER. Interestingly, abnormalities in the activation patterns of these brain regions during FER paradigms have also been reported in psychometric schizotypy (Germine, Garrido, Bruce & Hooker, 2011; Huang, Wang, Jin *et al.*, 2013).

Studies in psychometric schizotypy, therefore, have revealed that impaired FER is associated with Positive, Negative as well as Disorganized schizotypal factors (Abbott & Green, 2013; Germine & Hooker, 2011). Group-wise comparisons have also confirmed that controls perform better than high schizotypal individuals both in the identification and discrimination of emotions (Germine & Hooker, 2011; Poreh, Whitman, Weber & Ross, 1994). However, Williams, Henry & Green (2007) used the Ekman Faces test (Young, Perrett, Cabler, Sprengelmeyer & Ekman (2002) to examine FER and reported significant differences only in the identification of positive emotions (controls outperformed the schizotypal group). Although the lack of significant group differences in the other emotional expressions might seem surprising, schizophrenia patients have also been found to present with reduced sensitivity in the recognition of positive emotions when examined with this paradigm (Tsoi *et al.*, 2008); we could, therefore, speculate that this findings is at least in part attributed to the properties of the task. Additionally, Brown and Cohen (2010) found that the control group outperformed the schizotypal group in the identification of neutral emotions, as the schizotypals tended to misinterpret neutral facial expressions as expressing an emotion (i.e., disgust). This finding is also consistent with findings in schizophrenia patients (Kohler, Turner, Bilker *et al.*, 2003; van 't Wout *et al.*, 2007) and is attributed either to the *ambiguity* of neutral compared to emotional expressions or to a *type of cognitive or perceptual bias* in this group (for a detailed discussion see Brown & Cohen, 2010). Finally, van 't Wout *et al.* (2004) reported non-significant differences between schizotypals and controls. However, (a) a degraded FER task was used in this study possibly leading to floor effects in the performance of both groups and (b) a positive schizotypy scale, the Launey–Slade Hallucination Scale (LSHS; Vollema & van den Bosch, 1995), specific for hallucinatory

experiences was used for the categorization of subjects into groups; it is therefore possible that the lack of significant findings in this study is also due to the specificity of the scale, which leaves out other aspects of schizotypy.

SPEECH PROSODY

Prosody refers to paralinguistic aspects of utterances and includes pitch, pitch variability, intensity, stress, and duration (Dickey, Morocz, Minney *et al.* 2010). As Dickey *et al.* (2012, p. 20) noted, "Prosody is the vocal expression of one's internal emotional state or intent." Prosodic impairments (both in the expression and recognition of prosody) have been described throughout the course of schizophrenia, starting at the first episode (Allott, Rice, Bartholomeusz *et al.*, 2015; Amminger, Schäfer, Klier *et al.*, 2012a; Amminger, Schäfer, Papageorgiou *et al.*, 2012b) and continuing into the chronic (Bozikas, Kosmidis, Anezoulaki, Giannakou, Andreou & Karavatos, 2006; Hoekert, Kahn, Pijnenborg & Aleman, 2007) phases of the illness. They are also evident in populations at clinical or genetic risk for the disorder (Allott *et al.*, 2015; Amminger *et al.*, 2012b) as well as in SPD patients (Dickey *et al.*, 2012). The neural substrate of prosody includes areas such as the superior and middle temporal gyri, superior temporal sulcus, dorsolateral prefrontal and orbitofrontal cortices and the amygdala (Brück, Kreifelts & Wildgruber, 2011).

Studies in psychometric schizotypy have revealed that high schizotypal individuals perform worse than controls in the detection of prosody (Castro & Pearson, 2011) and that variability of intensity in one's own speech is negatively associated with ideas of reference, a component of paranoid schizotypy (Bedwell, Cohen, Trachik, Deptula & Mitchell, 2014). However, two other studies (Cohen & Hong, 2011; Cohen, Iglesias & Minor, 2009) failed to find significant between-group differences, although in the study by Cohen and Hong (2011) increased negative schizotypy tended to correlate with reduced prosody. Both studies, however, suffer from methodological limitations (e.g., sampling restrictions, lack of statistical corrections) that might have biased the findings.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Untangling the associations between schizotypal traits and emotional processes in psychometric schizotypy is an evolving field as it can significantly aid our understanding of central schizophrenia-related processes and is not affected by confounding factors intrinsic in the study of patient populations (Gruzelier, 2003). As detailed above, current findings indicate that high schizotypal individuals in the general population present with impaired emotional disposition, FER, prosodic expression and identification and increased alexithymia, in accordance to findings in the schizophrenia spectrum.

As regards emotional disposition, the majority of studies so far have examined schizotypy with the Chapman Scales and have associated mainly Social Anhedonia with impaired trait affectivity (e.g., experiencing more negative and at the same time reduced positive emotions). There are currently no studies reporting any associations or effects of other schizotypal facets

(e.g., Physical anhedonia) on emotional processing in schizotypy. Also, there are only a couple of group-wise comparison studies (Kerns, 2005, 2006) in which high schizotypal individuals were compared with controls but the schizotypal groups were formed based on their scores on more than one facets (e.g., increased Magical Ideation and Perceptual Aberrations). Studies examining associations between schizotypy as measured with the SPQ and emotional disposition are numerically fewer and suggest an overlap in the associations between the different schizotypal factors and trait affectivity (e.g., experiencing more negative emotions is associated with Positive, Negative and Disorganized schizotypy). On the other hand, studies examining FER and speech prosody have employed mainly the SPQ. In the majority of studies, however, high schizotypal individuals were defined according to either increased total score (Brown & Cohen, 2010; Castro & Pearson, 2011; Germine & Hooker, 2011; Williams *et al.*, 2007) or increased score in any schizotypal factor (Cohen & Hong, 2011; Cohen *et al.*, 2009; Germine & Hooker, 2011), so that, as with emotional disposition, no distinctions between the different schizotypal factors can be made. As for alexithymia, a variety of schizotypy scales have been used and again almost all aspects of schizotypy have been associated with increased alexithymic traits.

On the basis of the above findings, we could speculate that impaired emotional disposition, FER and prosody along with elevated alexithymia are "central" features of psychometric schizotypy and that is the reason they are evident in all schizotypal facets/dimensions. As regards FER, prosody and alexithymia, this is further supported by their common mediation/regulation by a frontotemporal neural network (Adolphs, 2002; Brück *et al.*, 2011; Liemburg *et al.*, 2012), which has also been implicated in schizophrenia (Bortolon *et al.*, 2015; Yamasue *et al.*, 2004) and psychometric schizotypy (DeRosse *et al.*, 2015; Huang *et al.*, 2013).

It is a fact that the studies on psychometric schizotypy and emotion processing are not numerous, they are cross-sectional, the samples in the majority of studies are small (e.g., average 100 participants/study, often divided into two or three groups) and a three-factor model dividing schizotypy into Positive, Negative and Disorganized has so far prevailed. It has been shown, however, that a four-factor model (whereby schizotypy is analysed into Paranoid, Cognitive-Perceptual, Negative and Disorganized factors) provides the best fit (Barron, Swami, Towell, Hutchinson & Morgan, 2015; Compton, Goulding, Bakeman & McClure-Tone, 2009; Fonseca-Pedrero, Compton, Tone *et al.*, 2014; Stefanis, Smyrnis, Avramopoulos, Evdokimidis, Ntzoufras & Stefanis, 2004; Stefanis, Vitoratou, Ntzoufras, Smyrnis, Evdokimidis & Stefanis 2006; Tsaousis, Zouraraki, Karamaouna, Karagiannopoulou & Giakoumaki, 2015). Future studies examining the associations of schizotypal dimensions, as defined with the four-factor model, and emotion processing could help clarify the topic further. Genetic studies have also revealed a number of polymorphisms implicated in schizotypy (Roussos *et al.*, 2009, 2011, 2013; Stefanis, Trikalinos, Avramopoulos *et al.*, 2008; Yasuda, Hashimoto, Ohi *et al.*, 2001); however, thus far the effects of these polymorphisms on emotional processing in psychometrically schizotypal individuals have not been studied.

Finally, longitudinal studies should examine the course of emotional impairments in schizotypy in combination with other factors (e.g., genetic or epigenetic effects, other personality traits, life experiences); this could add in a more holistic approach used to identify individuals who are at increased-risk for converting into psychosis.

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