

Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Kerns, Psychological Sciences

Cognitive Self-Control, Openness to Experience, and Positive Schizotypy

Kesha Liles and John G. Kerns

Schizotypy is defined as a latent personality organization reflecting liability for schizophrenia (Lenzenweger, 2018). Positive schizotypy, specifically, involves magical beliefs and unusual perceptual experiences (Kwapil & Barrantes-Vidal, 2015). Research findings suggest an association between positive schizotypy and the five factor model (FFM) dimension, openness to experience (Cicero & Kerns, 2010; Crego & Widiger, 2017). Our study further examines this association, with the inclusion of cognitive self-control as a possible facilitator for the relationship. Decreased cognitive inhibitory control and increased impulsivity have been found in patients with psychotic disorders, when compared to healthy controls (Nolan, D'Angelo, & Hoptman, 2011; Enticott, Ogloff, & Bradshaw, 2008). Additional research suggests that employment of self-control practices may relieve psychotic symptoms in psychiatric patients (Breier & Strauss, 1983). Our study examines whether there is an interaction between openness and self-control predicting positive schizotypy. Hypothesized findings suggest that high positive schizotypy results from an interaction between high openness to experience and low cognitive self-control, while high openness does *not* predict positive schizotypy in individuals with high self-control.

Positive schizotypy is assessed using the Multidimensional Schizotypy Scale-Brief Edition (Gross, Kwapil, Raulin, Silvia, & Barrantes-Vidal, 2018). Openness to Experience is assessed using the Aesthetic Sensitivity and Creative Imagination subsets of the Open-Mindedness Domain Scale of the BFI-2 (Soto, C. J., & John, O. P., 2017). Cognitive self-control is assessed using the English short version of UPPS-P Impulsive Behavior Scale (Lynam, Smith, Whiteside, & Cyders, 2006). Participants also completed the Infrequency Scale (Chapman & Chapman, 1983), measuring careless responding; Following previous research, participants who endorsed more than two of these items were omitted from data analysis (Chapman et al., 1994). Data analysis for our study is ongoing—a linear multiple regression analysis used to assess hypothesized interactions. Findings supportive of our hypothesis could demonstrate the efficiency of self-control as a predictor, and possible intervention construct, of psychosis and general psychopathology.