The Aberrant Salience Inventory: A New Measure of Psychosis Proneness
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Introduction

Aberrant Salience
- Aberrant salience is the unusual or incorrect assignment of salience, significance, or importance to otherwise innocuous stimuli (Kapur, 2003).
- The concept of aberrant salience has a long history in psychosis research and is consistent with phenomenological descriptions of psychosis.
- Central experience is when stimuli that ordinarily would not seem important become more significant and capture attention (Bowers, 1968; Bowers & Freedman, 1966).
- Related to dopamine dysregulation in psychosis.
- Based in part on research on normal incentive salience processes (Berridge, 2007).
- Despite importance, there are no questionnaire measures of aberrant salience.

Purpose of Aberrant Salience Inventory
- The scale may be used to identify people at risk for the development of psychosis.
- Findings from aberrant salience in subclinical psychosis may provide insight into psychosis.

Nomological Network
- AISI should be correlated with other psychosis-proneness measures, dissociation, and absorption.
- AISI should be correlated with other measures that are associated with increased dopamine (e.g., the Behavioral Activation Scale).
- AISI should not be as strongly correlated with related measures of schizotypy (e.g., social anhedonia).

Current Research

Study 1: Item Generation and Scale Refinement
- An over-inclusive item pool was generated.
- From phenomenological descriptions of psychosis in the literature (e.g., Bowers, 1968; Kapur, 2003; Parnas et al., 2003).
- Descriptions of the prodromal phase of schizophrenia (e.g., Moller & Husby, 2000; Thomas & Woods, 2006).
- Transcripts of interviews of people with psychosis in our lab (e.g., Kerns, 2006).
- Items endorsed by more than 80% of the sample were discarded.

The Aberrant Salience Inventory

Distribution of Aberrant Salience Inventory Scores

Study 2: Factor Structure and Construct Validity

Further Construct Validity

Conclusions
- AISI scores have reliability and validity for measuring subclinical psychosis.
- Aberrant Salience is composed of 5 correlated factors.
- Other research has found that participants at risk for psychosis have elevated AISI scores (Cicero et al., 2010).
- Inpatients with a history of psychosis have higher AISI scores than inpatients without a history of psychosis (Cicero et al., 2010).

Future Directions
- Use the AISI to further explore the nomological network of aberrant salience.
- Further evaluate the construct validity of the AISI in prodromal and first-episode patients.

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