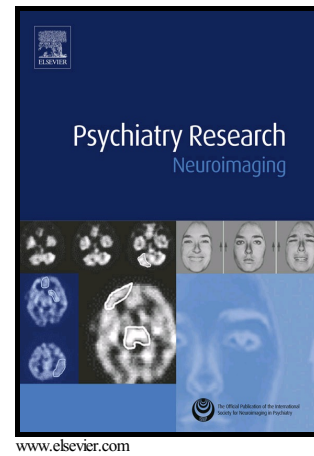


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**Impaired frontal processing during agency inferences in schizophrenia**

Robert A. Renes<sup>a</sup>, Matthijs Vink<sup>b</sup>, Anouk van der Weiden<sup>b</sup>, Merel Prikken<sup>b</sup>, Martijn G. J. C. Koevoets<sup>b</sup>, René S. Kahn<sup>b</sup>, Henk Aarts<sup>a</sup>, Neeltje E. M. van Haren<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Psychology, Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands

<sup>b</sup>Department of Psychiatry of the Brain Center Rudolf Magnus, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands

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Address correspondence to Robert A. Renes, Department of Psychology, Utrecht University, Heidelberglaan 1, 3584 CS Utrecht, The Netherlands; E-mail: R.A.Renes@uu.nl; Telephone: +3130-253-9517. Alternatively to Neeltje E. M. van Haren (n.e.m.vanharen@umcutrecht.nl).

**Abstract**

People generally experience themselves as the cause of outcomes following from their own actions. Such agency inferences occur fluently and are essential to social interaction. However, schizophrenia patients often experience difficulties in distinguishing their own actions from those of others. Building on recent research into the neural substrates underlying agency inferences in healthy individuals, the present study investigates how these inferences are represented on a neural level in patients with schizophrenia. Thirty-one schizophrenia patients and 31 healthy controls performed an agency inference task while functional magnetic resonance images were obtained. Participants were presented with a task wherein the relationship between their actions and the subsequent outcomes was ambiguous. They received instructions to cause specific outcomes to occur by pressing a key, but the task was designed to match or mismatch

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