

Psychophysiological studies of memory for imagined and perceived events: the effects of schizotypy

Results:

Contrary to expectations, schizotypy scores did not appear to influence memory accuracy or reaction time in either the location-based source task or the reality monitoring task. Differences were observed, however, in the event-related potential old/new effects as a function of schizotypy throughout the recording epoch (0-1900 ms post-stimulus). These differences were primarily evident when items had been presented in the auditory modality at study, and took the form of smaller old/new effects for the high schizotypes than for the low schizotypes. Early inspection of the ERP data also indicates that the scalp distributions of the old/new effects differ between the groups, suggesting that the neural generators of the old/new effects were at least partially non-overlapping between the two groups. In addition, it was observed that the modulating effect of retrieval task-type upon the old/new effects also differed to some extent between the two groups. For example, low schizotypes showed larger old/new effects for the location-based source task than for the reality monitoring task between 800-1200 ms, whereas the reverse was true for the high schizotypes. In addition to these primary findings, our large data set also allowed us to observe other interactions of interest to the memory field in general; between 800-1900 ms, we observed that the modality of study items interacted with retrieval task type such that the old/new effects elicited during these epochs were modulated by study modality during the location-based source monitoring task but not during the reality monitoring task.

Published Work:

The results are currently being prepared as two separate manuscripts. One manuscript comprises an account of the effect of schizotypy on behavioural and ERP measures of memory performance, whereas the second comprises an account of the effects of study modality and retrieval task-type on behavioural and ERP measures of memory performance.

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