



## Galderisi Silvana, DeLisi Lynn E., Borgwardt Stefan (Eds.). Neuroimaging of Schizophrenia and Other Primary Psychotic Disorders. Achievements and Perspectives

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This book is part of a project on the state of the art of neuroimaging in schizophrenia and other primary psychotic disorders, deriving from the activities of the Section on Neuroimaging in Psychiatry of the World Psychiatric Association. The editors are three leading personalities in the field, with an active role in International Institutions: Silvana Galderisi, professor of Psychiatry at the University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” in Naples, Lynn E. DeLisi, professor of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, and Stefan Borgwardt, Professor of Neuropsychiatry at the University of Basel.

Neuroimaging of Schizophrenia and Other Primary Psychotic Disorders is a publication which is ambitious, rigorous, difficult, but above all stimulating. The reason for the difficulty is that it defines the state of the art of neuroimaging in Psychiatry, with main reference to psychotic disorders, within a growth path that has abandoned the simplicity of the interpretation of structural imaging, fundamentally directed at the exclusion of organic causes, mainly searching for space-occupying lesions and other morphological issues. Neuroimaging in this field is in the middle of a difficult journey, in which the points of arrival are not yet fully defined. This depends probably from the fact that the psychiatric patient is a subject sometimes difficult to classify into homogeneous categories. In order to arrive at evidence, very well-organized studies, supported by statistically significant numbers, are therefore necessary. Although research has already led to the acquisition of important findings, we are a significantly long way from understanding all the answers to specific

and practical clinical questions with regard to the individual patient. In this difficult journey, in my opinion, the solution is the one identified by the publishers. They are looking for answers to their questions, trying to get all the possible information achievable with functional MRI and nuclear medicine, mainly PET, looking for markers and circuits, metabolic and neurotransmitter alterations, and so on. As a result, the courageous and productive road traveled by the authors is that of the presentation of the most significant data in the literature, giving predominance to tables full of data and to a voluminous and updated bibliography, without dwelling on splendid color images, utilized only in cases where they are meaningful.

This publication describes in detail the main neuroimaging findings in various primary psychotic disorders, identifying findings both common to a number of diseases and specific for each disorder. Furthermore, potential transformational aspects of research in the field are highlighted, with discussion of emerging innovative perspectives.

The book of 345 pages is structured into nine chapters: 1) Neuroimaging: Diagnostic Boundaries and Biomarkers; 2) Neuroimaging and Psychopathological Domains; 3) Neuroimaging of Neurotransmitter Alterations in Schizophrenia and Its Relevance for Negative Symptoms; 4) Neuroimaging and Genetics; 5) Neuroimaging and the Longitudinal Course of Schizophrenia; 6) Neuroimaging and the At-Risk Mental State; 7) Neuroimaging and Antipsychotics; 8) Research Perspectives for Neuroimaging of Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders; 9) Toward Clinical Translation of Neuroimaging Research in Schizophrenia and Other Primary Psychotic Disorders.

I was personally very interested in reading the book, which well represents the state of the art and perspectives on the subject, and also indicates the tools for further studies in the updated and voluminous bibliography. Therefore, I recommend this publication at first to psychiatrists, clinicians, and

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researchers in neurosciences, clearly including residents and students in the field. However, in my opinion, this publication could also be particularly stimulating for nuclear physicians and neuroradiologists who want to develop further knowledge of the possible role of neuroimaging in psychiatry. This is still a field in which the answers are fewer than the questions still open. Therefore, this volume may be a starting point for new Ulysses, young in age or in mind, who want to develop a better understanding of neurochemistry, functional networks,

biochemical alterations and so on, as a substrate of psychotic disorders. It is a great field of knowledge development that this book invites us to face.

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