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## **Cognitive Psychopathology: An essential tool for the frame analysis of mental disorders**

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The purpose of this presentation is to give an overview of the relation of human cognitive functions and the clinical phenomenology of mental disorders. We present definitions of cognitive terms and examples of how cognitive processes are involved in the pathophysiology of psychopathology.

Cognition is a construct of cognitive processes assessed by standardized methods. Cognitive assessments may include such diverse processes as attention, reaction time, memory, spatial orientation and others. Most cognitive processes are measurable by neuropsychological assessment, functional neuroimaging or event related potentials. We will discuss these methods in cognitive psychology and their importance for psychiatry. We will also present some examples of impaired cognitive processes in some mental disorders, e.g., using attentional bias in specific phobias or the role of the construct of the sense of agency in the pathogenesis of delusions. Using the approach of a functional psychopathology, of which cognitive assessments are an important part, we will discuss recent advances in explaining psychopathological features by cognitive dysfunctions.

We also present a new approach for representing mental disorders using Frame Theory using specific phobia as an example. The frame for specific phobia is a representation of a fixed stimulus-reaction-relation, its possible pathophysiology, and its functional consequences. Among the multitude of pathomechanisms described in this frame, cognitive dysfunctions appear to play a central role.

Classification systems of mental disorders usually rely on clinical symptoms as the essential elements of classification. Recently, given the increasing evidence that cognitive dysfunctions play an important role in the pathophysiology of severe mental disorders like schizophrenia, new proposals for including cognitive assessments in schizophrenia have been put forward. We will discuss in how far these advances in cognitive psychopathology and the conceptualization of mental disorders can be analyzed using Barsalou Frames.