TITLE

Common default mode network dysfunction across psychopathologies: A
neuroimaging meta-analysis of the n-back working memory paradigm

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ABSTRACT

The National Institute of Mental Health's (NIMH) Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) classifies

disorders based on shared aspects of behavioral and neurobiological dysfunction. One common

behavioral deficit observed in various psychopathologies, namely ADHD, addiction, bipolar

disorder, depression, and schizophrenia, is a deficit in working memory performance. However,

it is not known to what extent, if any, these disorders share common neurobiological

abnormalities that contribute to decrements in performance. The goal of the present study was to

examine convergence and divergence of working memory networks across psychopathologies.

We used the Activation Likelihood Estimate (ALE) meta-analytic technique to collapse prior

data obtained from published studies using the n-back working memory paradigm in individuals

with a DSM-criteria diagnosis of the aforementioned disorders. These studies examined areas in

the brain that showed increases in activity as a function of working memory-related load

compared to a baseline condition, both within subjects and between healthy individuals and those

with psychiatric disorder. A meta-analysis of 281 foci covering 81 experiments and 2,629

participants found significant convergence of hyperactivity in medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC)

for DSM-diagnosed individuals compared to healthy controls. Foci from ADHD, addiction,

bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression studies contributed to the formation of this

cluster. These results provide evidence that default-mode intrusion may constitute a shared seed

of dysregulation across multiple psychopathologies, ultimately resulting in poorer working

memory performance. (WORD COUNT: 224)

Keywords: n-back task, meta-analysis, working memory, psychopathology, ADHD,

addiction, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia

INTRODUCTION

Deficits in working memory performance are a shared feature across many psychopathologies: depression (1), attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (2), schizophrenia (3,4), addiction (5), and bipolar disorder (6). The extent to which the observed impairments are the result of similar neurobiological abnormalities has not been systematically explored. Understanding the shared as well as the unique neurobiological mechanisms that are related to poor working memory performance in different psychopathologies may impact understanding of their pathophysiology, as well as inform the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases. Moreover, this approach seeks to bridge the gap between clinically-derived classification schemes and cognitive neuroscience research outlined by the National Institute of Mental Health's (NIMH) Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) initiative (7). To our knowledge, no attempts have been made to reconcile the varied functional neuroimaging data that have emerged from research examining working memory across psychopathologies. Patients with schizophrenia, for example, have been shown to exhibit both hypoactivity and hyperactivity in left middle frontal gyrus in response to increased working memory load on the n-back task (3,8). Similarly, in Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), studies have reported decreases in insula activity during n-back performance (9) while others have reported the opposite effect (10).

To make sense of these disparate results, meta-analytic techniques such as the Activation Likelihood Estimation (ALE) algorithm can be implemented (11,12). The ALE algorithm provides a statistically rigorous approach to aggregating neuroimaging data that allows researchers to draw inferences using whole-brain peak coordinates (13,14). The ALE method, aggregating over studies, can be used to determine the likelihood a region contributes to a given contrast of interest (12). This is particularly valuable due to the drawbacks of individual

neuroimaging studies, namely low statistical power, high false positive rates, and potential for

software errors (15).

The goal of the present study was to examine the convergence and/or divergence of

functional neuroimaging findings as it relates to working memory-related load across

psychopathologies, namely, ADHD, schizophrenia, addiction, depression, and bipolar disorder.

We chose to examine working memory-related load across various permutations of the n-back

task, which has been extensively validated as a probe for our psychological construct of interest

(16). First, we aggregated all peer-reviewed publications meeting our search criteria. All papers

had to include contrasts with patients having a DSM diagnosis of interest. Exceptions were made

for the 'Addiction' contrast to include illicit substance use more broadly, due to the lack of a

pervasive application of DSM criteria in this case. Imaging analyses furthermore had to include a

minimum n-back contrast of 2-back > rest. That is, a 2-back (or 3-back) > rest contrast was

acceptable for our purposes, but not 1-back > rest, 1-back > 0-back, or 3-back with no baseline.

Second, we extracted coordinates from all articles reporting within-group contrasts as well as

between-group contrasts (e.g., controls > bipolar disorder). Third, we ran each contrast in the

GingerALE software to create thresholded ALE images. We examined convergence within

psychopathologies to characterize the working memory-related activation patterns specific to

each disease. We then examined convergence between psychopathologies to identify regions that

showed either shared or unique contributions to the neurobiological differences related to

working memory performance.

Differences between psychopathology and control group activation maps may constitute

regions that warrant further investigation. Any focus of hyperactivation or hypoactivation across

psychopathologies compared to controls may represent functional biomarkers of pathology. In

particular, these regions (or region) may play a pivotal role in the pathophysiology of working-

memory related deficits commonly observed in ADHD, addiction, bipolar disorder, depression

and schizophrenia. Such a finding may suggest a novel target for treatment, a potential new way

to predict the onset of mental illness, or a functional consequence resulting from the

development of psychiatric illness.

METHODS

Criteria Selection for Data Used for Meta-Analysis. We conducted literature

searches in both Google Scholar and PubMed utilizing the following terms alone and in

combination: 'n-back,' 'working memory,' '2-back,' and '3-back'. We constrained our results by

keywords related to our psychopathologies of interest: 'addiction,' 'nicotine,' 'cocaine,'

'marijuana,' 'ecstasy,' 'MDMA,' 'schizophrenia,' 'schizoaffective,' 'MDD,' 'depression,'

'bipolar,' 'mania,' and 'ADHD.' Peer reviewed articles were also obtained using BrainMap's

Sleuth 3.0.3 software (17) employing the search procedure: Experiments → Paradigm Class →

n-back and Subjects → Diagnosis → Alcoholism, Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder,

Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Major Depressive Disorder, Schizophrenia, and Substance Use

Disorder. The obtained papers were further searched for citations of interest and authors were

contacted directly if peak coordinates were missing from their reported analyses.

Studies were grouped into separate diagnostic categories determined by DSM-criteria at

the time of their publication. This procedure resulted in the following five categories: Addiction,

ADHD, Bipolar Disorder, MDD, and Schizophrenia. We used the DSM-V diagnostic criteria for

classification purposes if a disorder was ambiguous. For example, Schizoaffective disorder was

classified within the "Schizophrenia" category, as it fits within the DSM-V's diagnostic category

of "Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders." We included subjects with illicit

substance use in the 'Addiction' contrast even if they did not have a DSM criteria diagnosis.

We only included experiments using variants (e.g., phonological, visuospatial, emotional)

of the n-back paradigm (16) in our meta-analysis. Acceptable experimental conditions included

3-back and 2-back paradigms, while 1-back, 0-back, fixation, and resting conditions were

considered acceptable baselines. Preferred baseline conditions were 1-back and 0-back

conditions, as subtraction of these conditions allows for removal of common sensory-motor

effects associated with subjects' responses via button press (18). In rare cases, however, fixation

or rest conditions were included to mitigate the low power inherent to several between-groups

contrasts (i.e., Addiction vs. Healthy Controls). We chose to limit our literature review to

experiments that only used the n-back paradigm to hold the task and cognitive process of interest

(e.g., working memory) constant while assessing neurobiological variability related to different

psychopathologies.

Neuroimaging experiments were included only if brain scans were acquired using whole-

brain functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) or positron emission tomography (PET).

Only studies that reported whole-brain analyses, as opposed to region of interest (ROI) analyses,

with coordinates listed in standard stereotactic space (MNI or Talairach/Tournoux), were

included in our subsequent ALE analyses. All MNI coordinates were converted to Talairach

coordinates (19) using a transformation created by Lacadie et al. (20).

Our minimum statistical criteria for inclusion consisted of studies with a significance

threshold of $p < 0.001$ uncorrected in at least 8 individuals (Eickhoff, personal communication,

2016). In total, we identified 160 experiments that matched our criteria, comprised of 54 control,

20 Addiction, 17 ADHD, 25 Bipolar, 15 MDD, and 29 schizophrenia experiments. These

experiments reported 1,603 brain activation foci obtained from a total of 4,509 participants. Our

search procedure was concluded in October of 2019.

Activation Likelihood Estimation Algorithm. To examine the brain regions activated

during the n-back task across addiction, ADHD, bipolar disorder, MDD, and schizophrenia

psychopathologies, we performed a coordinate-based meta-analysis using GingerALE v3.0.2

(17). GingerALE's revised ALE algorithm creates a statistical map using the supplied peak

coordinates to estimate the likelihood of activation of each voxel in the brain. Activation foci are

viewed as centers of 3-D Gaussian probability distribution functions, which are used to estimate

the probability that at least one of the activation foci in the dataset actually lies within a given

voxel (12) – these probabilities are known as Activation Likelihood Estimate (ALE) values.

Importantly, the ALE algorithm weighs the between-subject variance by the number of subjects

in each study, such that larger studies are associated with narrower Gaussian distributions than

smaller studies. Maps were then created using the voxel-wise ALE values for each contrast. The

resulting ALE maps were thresholded at $p < 0.01$ uncorrected and then subjected to a

permutation test (1000 replications) with a cluster threshold value $p < 0.01$ FWE (family-wise

error).

Contrasts. We conducted multiple ALE meta-analyses, both within and between-groups.

Initially, we characterized the n-back working memory network separately for healthy controls,

all psychopathologies collapsed, and for each individual psychopathology (i.e. within-group

contrasts). In the healthy controls contrast, we examined coordinates from 54 experiments,

comprising a total of 1,040 healthy control participants and 561 foci. We only included

publications that obtained data from healthy participants and were additionally used in the

within-group 'psychopathologies' contrasts. In the psychopathologies contrasts, we included data

from a total of 106 experiments: 20 Addiction, 17 ADHD, 25 Bipolar, 15 MDD, and 29

schizophrenia. These experiments included a total of 1,042 foci and 3,469 participants. Next, we

evaluated brain networks that were hyperactive in controls compared to all combined

psychopathologies during the n-back task (i.e. between-group contrasts) and also compared

individually as follow-up. A total of 73 experiments fit eligibility criteria for this analysis: 8

Controls > Addiction, 12 Controls > ADHD, 15 Controls > Bipolar, 11 Controls > MDD

experiments, and 27 Controls > Schizophrenia; resulting in 336 foci from 2,788 participants.

Lastly, we examined the brain networks that were hyperactive during the n-back task across all

psychopathologies combined and individually, in comparison to healthy controls. For this

analysis, we isolated 81 experiments that matched our criteria: 32 schizophrenia > controls, 18

bipolar > controls, 11 MDD > controls, 11 addiction > controls, and 9 ADHD > controls;

consisting of 281 foci obtained from 2,629 participants. A full list of studies included in our

within- and between-groups contrasts are available in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. For all

analyses and contrasts, we report anatomical labels (Talairach Nearest Grey Matter) of the

weighted center (x,y,z) of each obtained cluster. Clusters were overlaid onto the standard "Colin"

brain in Talairach space (21) using Mango v. 4.1 software (http://ric.uthscsa.edu/mango/).

RESULTS

N-back working memory network within each group

To identify brain regions in healthy individuals and in those with psychopathology that

increase in activation with increasing working memory load during the n-back, we conducted

separate within-group meta-analyses. We first collapsed data across all healthy participants that

were included in any of the undermentioned contrasts. Healthy participants activated an array of

regions typically associated with prior examinations of working memory during the n-back

paradigm (22,23). These regions included bilateral inferior parietal lobule (IPL) extending to

precuneus, bilateral insula, bilateral decline of the cerebellum, bilateral mid frontal gyrus (MFG),

left precentral gyrus extending into the anterior cingulate, right superior frontal gyrus (SFG), left

ventral anterior nucleus of the thalamus extending to the mediodorsal nucleus, and bilateral tuber

of the cerebellum (Figure 1, first row; Table 3).

We furthermore collapsed data across all within-group psychopathologies contrasts. We

found convergence of activation in a breadth of brain regions, including bilateral SFG, bilateral

MFG, bilateral IPL, right IFG, bilateral cerebellar declive, left precentral gyrus, left claustrum,

left cingulate gyrus, right insula, left caudate, and left putamen (Figure 1, second row; Table 3).

Across many of the psychopathologies the topology of the ALE maps related to an

increase in activation with increasing working memory load was consistent with that observed in

the healthy participants and each other. For example, when considering individuals with

addiction, increased working memory load was associated with increased activation in left

cingulate gyrus, left sub-gyral (Brodmann area [BA] 6), bilateral superior parietal lobule (SPL),

bilateral IPL, bilateral MFG, and bilateral precentral gyrus (Figure 1, third row; Table 3).

In the ADHD group, the n-back working memory network was characterized by

activation in left SFG, left cingulate gyrus, right medial frontal gyrus (MeFG), left precentral

gyrus, bilateral MFG, right IPL, right sub-gyral (BA 40), and left cerebellar declive (Figure 1,

fourth row; Table 3).

In individuals with Bipolar Disorder, increased working memory load resulted in

increased activation in bilateral IPL, left angular gyrus, bilateral MFG, left MeFG, left SFG, left

cingulate gyrus, bilateral precentral gyrus, right claustrum, and right inferior frontal gyrus (IFG)

(Figure 1, fifth row; Table 3).

In MDD, increased working memory load was associated with increased activation in

bilateral IPL, right superior temporal gyrus (STG), bilateral precuneus, left angular gyrus, and

left MFG (Figure 1, sixth row; Table 3).

In the schizophrenia group, increased working memory load during the n-back task was

associated with activation in bilateral IPL, right angular gyrus, bilateral SPL, bilateral MFG,

bilateral IFG, bilateral precentral gyrus, right cingulate gyrus, left MeFG, right anterior

cingulate, right SFG, right insula, left inferior temporal gyrus (ITG), left fusiform gyrus,

bilateral cerebellar declive, and left cerebellar culmen. (Figure 1, sixth row; Table 3).

Greater working memory-related activations in healthy individuals

To evaluate what brain regions showed greater working memory-related activations in

healthy individuals compared to psychopathology more generally and maximize our power to

detect an effect, we collapsed data across all between-group contrasts (Healthy Controls >

Psychopathology) for the subsequent meta-analysis. Healthy individuals demonstrated greater

activation in bilateral precuneus and right IFG (triangularis/opercularis) extending into insula

(Figure 2, Table 3). Healthy participants from all studies contributed to the formation of the

bilateral precuneus cluster, while subjects from MDD and schizophrenia studies contributed to

the formation of the right IFG cluster.

Follow-up analyses examined the same comparisons – brain regions that exhibit greater

n-back working memory-related activation in healthy subjects compared to those with a

psychiatric diagnosis – but for each psychopathology separately. Across addiction studies,

healthy subjects exhibited greater working memory-related activation than patients in left

precuneus. Compared to individuals with ADHD, healthy controls exhibited greater activation in

right MFG. Relative to those with bipolar disorder, healthy controls exhibited greater activation

in left MFG. No brain regions exhibited significantly greater activation in healthy controls

compared to individuals with MDD. Right IFG, insula, cerebellar culmen, nodule, and declive all

exhibited greater activation in healthy controls compared to individuals with schizophrenia on

the n-back task (Figure 3, Table 3).

Greater working memory related activations in individuals with

psychopathology

We conducted an additional meta-analysis to examine effects in which patients across

psychopathologies exhibited greater activations relative to controls during the n-back task (i.e.

Psychopathology > Healthy Controls). We observed a significant convergence of hyperactivation

across all psychopathologies compared to controls in the left anterior cingulate cortex/medial

prefrontal cortex (lACC/mPFC) (Figure 2, Table 3). This cluster (-4, 36, -2) was centered in a

central or hub region of the default mode network (DMN), a group of brain regions that are more

active during rest than during task performance (24,25). Experiments from the addiction, ADHD,

bipolar disorder, MDD, and schizophrenia greater than controls contrasts contributed to the

formation of this cluster.

We next conducted a follow-up meta-analysis to examine effects in which patients across

individual psychopathologies exhibited greater activations relative to controls during the n-back

task. The ALE algorithm yielded no significant regions of convergence where participants

diagnosed with addiction, ADHD, or MDD exhibited greater activation during the n-back

working memory task compared to controls. In contrast, patients diagnosed with bipolar disorder

and schizophrenia exhibited greater activation in the lACC extending into the mPFC during the

n-back task compared to healthy controls (Figure 4, Table 3).

DISCUSSION

Deficits in working memory are commonly reported in individuals with a variety of

psychopathologies. We examined neuroimaging data across ADHD, addiction, bipolar disorder,

MDD, and schizophrenia to identify similarities and differences in human brain activation during

the same working memory paradigm (n-back task). Elucidating convergent and/or divergent

neurobiological correlates may shed light on their underlying pathophysiology (1–6). With

increasing working memory load participants with psychiatric disorders when compared to

controls exhibited hyperactivity in the mPFC, a hub of the DMN, while controls showed greater

activation in the right IFG and bilateral precuneus. These results provide novel and compelling

evidence that in addition to frontal and parietal dysfunction, DMN intrusion may constitute a

conserved mechanism of dysregulation across psychopathologies resulting in poorer working

memory performance.

Patterns of activation with increasing working memory load in each group were

remarkably consistent following our within-group meta-analyses. Prototypical regions –

including the bilateral IPL, bilateral MFG, bilateral anterior insula, and SFG – extending

ventrally into the anterior cingulate cortex – were seen within each group and are consistent with

prior meta-analytic studies examining working memory load in non-patient populations (22,23).

The lack of grossly discernable differences is not entirely unexpected given that impairments in

behavior often result in subtle, rather than large scale, changes in functional activity.

While some qualitative differences in the topology of ALE activations were evident across

groups, we believe these dissimilarities arise from differences in power across contrasts. For

example, the within-group psychopathologies contrast had the most statistical power (106

experiments, 1042 foci); thus, it follows that the working memory network for this contrast

should be more robust than in the MDD contrast, which had the least power (15 experiments,

142 foci). Finally, we note that while there are observable differences in the within-group,

collapsed controls contrast versus psychopathologies contrast (for example, in bilateral MFG),

regions of spatial convergence or divergence do not represent direct statistical comparisons. To

accomplish this, meta-analyses should be conducted on publications with between-group

statistical comparisons that include both patient and healthy control samples. Accordingly, meta-

analyses comparing between-group differences are essential for identifying convergence and

divergence of activations related to working memory impairments in psychiatric disorders.

To directly examine functional differences between healthy controls and subjects with

psychopathology as working memory load increases, we performed meta-analyses of between-

groups data. These analyses detailed regions in healthy subjects that exhibited greater working

memory load-related activation relative to those with psychopathology, and vice versa.

Considerable heterogeneity in activations were evident across groups which likely reflects

differences in power across the different psychopathologies (as noted above). However, it is

possible that the observed differences may highlight unique functional impairments for each

psychopathology when compared to healthy individuals. We focus our discussion, rather, on the

undermentioned collapsed data, which sheds insight into common pathophysiology across all

disease states and is bolstered by greater statistical power.

To examine common neurobiological correlates, we first collapsed across all contrasts to

examine brain regions in which healthy subjects exhibited greater working memory load-related

activation than individuals with any given psychopathology. With this analysis, we were able to

examine brain regions that exhibited hyperactivity in healthy controls relative to individuals with

mental illness, who are typically impaired on the n-back task. We found convergence of

activation in bilateral precuneus and right IFG extending into insula. The precuneus has long

been implicated in successful episodic memory retrieval (26,27), and is associated with better

performance on spatial working memory tasks (28,29). Further, it has been shown to activate

during the n-back in healthy subjects regardless of memory load, object, age, or gender (23).

Differential recruitment of bilateral precuneus in this instance requires further investigation,

though we posit that its greater recruitment is coincident with normal cognitive processing

during this task. The IFG/insula region is a component of the salience network, a group of brain

regions responsible for orienting toward behaviorally salient external events (30,31). While

insula is implicated in disparate cognitive responses such as emotional and interoceptive

processing, in this instance it is likely responsible for orienting toward salient stimuli and

switching between networks (DMN and central executive) to permit access to attention and

working memory stores (32,33). We thus assert that, in healthy participants, greater insula

recruitment likely reflects an "open door policy" for working memory that is 'shut' in those with

psychopathology.

While working memory impairments may arise from aberrant salience detection,

behavioral performance may also suffer due to spurious activations of regions unrelated to the

task at hand. Supporting this possibility, individuals with psychopathology compared to healthy

controls during the n-back task exhibited greater activation with increasing working memory

load in the mPFC. When data from all psychopathologies was collapsed, the cluster was

comprised of approximately 14.8% MDD studies, 37.0% Bipolar studies, 33.3% schizophrenia

studies, 11.11% addiction studies, and 3.7% ADHD studies. When examining each

psychopathology separately subjects with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder both exhibited a

similar cluster that survived corrections for multiple comparisons, while data from ADHD,

addiction, and MDD groups did not survive statistical thresholding. Thus, pooling across

psychopathologies helped identify the ADHD, addiction, and MDD groups as contributors to the

mPFC cluster, while on their own not significant.

The mPFC is critical for a diverse array of functions in the brain. Lesions in this region

are associated with drastic impairments in personality, affect, emotion, decision-making, and

general cognition (34). Literature linking aberrant mPFC function to psychiatric disorders is

replete. For example, structural analyses suggest that mPFC-amygdala white matter connectivity

predicts anxiety and depressive symptoms in childhood (35), and functional connectivity

between these regions is negatively correlated with PTSD symptoms (36). Smaller mPFC

volume in adolescents predicts ADHD symptoms after 5 years, while mPFC activity in

individuals with schizophrenia and comorbid nicotine addiction (relative to healthy controls) is

enhanced following exposure to cigarette cues (37). Finally, a recent meta-analysis supports the

assertion that distinct subregions of the mPFC are associated with psychopathologies such as

PTSD, addiction, depression, social anxiety, and schizophrenia (38). Of note, the mPFC plays an

integral role in memory; indeed, those with mPFC lesions are prone to memory confabulations,

poor schematic memory, and impaired environmental context effects on memory formation (34).

mPFC-hippocampal interactions have been shown to mediate memory-based decision-making

(39,40) as well. Further, psychophysiological analyses during a working memory task support

the role of mPFC as an "emotional gating" mechanism in instances of high cognitive load (41).

Indeed, this supports the earlier thesis that mPFC connectivity facilitates emotion-cognition

interactions, or simply, the interplay between affect and reason (42).

In addition to being a key region responsible for the integration of cognitive and

emotional stimuli, the mPFC is also a known hub of the DMN – an organized network of brain

regions that are more active during rest than during cognitive tasks (24,43). Intrusion of the

DMN during cognitive tasks may reflect insufficient top-down attentional control, leading to

performance decrements (44). This "default mode interference hypothesis" suggests that

spontaneous low frequency activity in regions of the DMN, such as the mPFC, can emerge

during the performance of a task and occupy neural resources necessary for performing that task,

ultimately resulting in behavioral impairments (45). Strikingly, Whitfield-Gabrieli et al. (46)

examined patients with schizophrenia and first-degree relatives of those with schizophrenia, and

found that those particular individuals exhibited reduced task-related suppression of a similar,

though more anterior, region in mPFC during an n-back working memory paradigm. Whitfield-

Gabrieli et al. (46) was not incorporated in our analyses as the data did not conform to our

inclusion criteria. Our result provides further replication for the role of dysregulated mPFC

activity as a direct contributor to poor working memory performance in schizophrenia and

bipolar disorder, and suggests that it may have a role to play in ADHD, addiction, and MDD as

well.

Conclusion

We have found evidence for greater recruitment of regions within the salience network

(i.e. IFG and insula) in healthy individuals along with DMN (i.e. mPFC) intrusion in psychiatric

patients during performance of the n-back working memory paradigm. Not only do these results

provide evidence for the default mode interference hypothesis, they also speak more generally in

support of the triple network model of Menon (47) which posits that aberrant function within

three neurocognitive networks constitute a common feature among multiple psychopathologies.

These three networks, the frontoparietal central executive network (CEN), salience network

(SN), and default mode network (DMN) have been shown to be dysregulated in schizophrenia,

depression, dementia, autism, and anxiety (47). We extend these findings to suggest that

disruption in a combination of at least two of these networks, the DMN and SN, play a role in

affecting working memory performance of individuals with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder,

and that such a role may exist in ADHD, addiction, and MDD as well.

Limitations and Future Directions

In meta-analyses the recommended number of experiments per contrast is 20 (Eickhoff,

personal communications). Here, we took great efforts to meet this recommendation, while at the

same time stringently applying our inclusion/exclusion criteria to obtain the most accurate and

interpretable results. On average, we had 30.21 experiments per contrast including pooled

contrasts such as 'All Psychopathologies' 'Controls', and 'Psych > Con'. With pooled contrasts

excluded, there were 17.33 experiments per contrast. With this in mind, however, the minimum

number of experiments included was 8 in the Con > Addiction contrast. Caution should be taken

in over-interpreting the related results. In fact, between-group contrasts of each psychopathology

separately, which are the most informative to pathologically related differences in brain

activation, had the fewest number of experiments on average (mean = 15.4). This notable

limitation speaks to the need for replication studies and large sample sizes to facilitate the

examination of between group differences. However, our approach to collapsing across

psychopathologies was sufficiently powered and provided mechanistic insight to working

memory impairments. As this meta-analysis captures cross-sectional data, further studies are

necessary to determine whether the observed differences in brain activity are a cause or

consequence of subjects' respective diagnoses. Finally, recent research has used the mPFC as a

target for fMRI-based neurofeedback (48). Future studies should determine whether this

approach is capable of mitigating working memory deficits in individuals with psychopathology.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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Figure 1. Within-group contrasts. From top to bottom are n-back working memory-related activations in healthy controls, participants with addiction, ADHD, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder (MDD), and schizophrenia (SCZ). These analyses include data from a total of 160 experiments and 4509 subjects, from which 1603 foci were obtained.

y = 22   z = 45   z = 7   z = -10

Figure 2. Between-group contrasts. Clusters show regions in which healthy controls exhibit greater activation than participants with psychopathologies (blue) or regions in which participants with psychopathologies demonstrate greater activation that healthy controls (red). The latter contrast converges in lACC/mPFC extending into OFC, while the prior contrast exhibits two clusters of convergence in precuneus and rIFG extending into insula. Darker colors indicate higher ALE values (and thus lower *p*-values). Con = Controls. Psych = All psychopathologies.

Figure 3. Between-group contrasts. Each contrast represents regions of n-back-related hyperactivation in healthy controls relative to participants with addiction (red), ADHD (green), bipolar disorder (blue), or schizophrenia (SCZ; pink). These regions included left precuneus, right MFG, left MFG, as well as right IFG (extending into insula) and cerebellum, respectively. No significant clusters were obtained for participants with major depressive disorder.

Figure 4. Between-group contrasts. Contrasts represent a region in the brain in which hyperactivity was observed in participants with schizophrenia (SCZ; red) or bipolar disorder (blue). These regions converge (pink) in lACC/mPFC, with a slight extension into orbitofrontal cortex.

TABLE 1. WITHIN-GROUPS CONTRASTS

Publication	Contrast	Foci	N-back	Stimulus
Addiction				
Bustamante, 2011	Main activation 2-back>0-back, Cocaine	8	0,2	Letters (Auditory)
Campanella, 2013	2-back>0-back, Binge Drinkers	36	0,2	Numbers
Charlet, 2013	Functional activation 2-back>0-back, ADP	4	0,2	Numbers
Cousijn, 2013	2-back>0-back, Cannabis	3	0,2	Letters
Cousijn, 2013	2-back>1-back, Cannabis	4	1,2	Letters
Loughead, 2015	Parametric 3>2>1>0-back, Abstinent Smokers	9	0,1,2,3?	Fractals
McClernon, 2015	2-back>0-back, Placebo + Abstinent Smokers	8	0,2	Letters
Nichols, 2013	3-back>0-back, Abstinent Smokers	7	0,3	Letters
Owens, 2018	2-back>0-back, THC positive	19	0,2	Objects
Pfefferbaum, 2001	Areas of activation 2-back>rest, Alcoholics	19	rest,2	Dots
Schweinsburg, 2010	SWM 2-back>0-back, Marijuana Adolescents	14	0,2	Abstract Drawings
Sirnes, 2018	Word 2-back>1-back, Opioid-exposed children	1	1,2	Words of Stroop
Sirnes, 2018	Color 2-back>1-back, Opioid-exposed children	1	1,2	Colors of Stroop
Smith, 2010	Visuospatial 2-back>0-back, Marijuana	14	0,2	Dots
Sweet, 2010	2-back>0-back, Placebo + Abstinent Smokers	14	0,2	Letters
Tomasi, 2007	2-back>0-back, Abstinent cocaine abusers	21	0,2	Letters
Tomasi, 2007	0<1<2-back load, Abstinent cocaine abusers	7	0,1,2	Letters
Wesley, 2017	2-back>1-back, Non-dependent heavy drinkers	10	1,2	Letters
Wesley, 2017	2-back>1-back, Dependent heavy drinkers	5	1,2	Letters
Xu, 2005	0<1<2<3-back parametric, abstinent smokers	5	0,1,2,3	Letters
ADHD				
Bedard, 2014	Parametric load 0<1<2-back, ADHD children	11	0,1,2	Dots
Bedard, 2014	2-back>0-back, ADHD children	7	0,2	Dots
Chantiluke, 2015	2-back>0-back, ADHD boys + placebo	8	0,2	Letters
Chantiluke, 2015	3-back>0-back, ADHD boys + placebo	7	0,3	Letters
Cubillo, 2013	2-back>0-back, ADHD boys + Placebo	8	0,2	Letters
Cubillo, 2013	3-back>0-back, ADHD boys + placebo	6	0,3	Letters
*Ko, 2015	2-back>0-back, ADHD adults	10	0,2	Numbers
Ko, 2018	2-back>0-back, ADHD adults	12	0,2	Numbers
Li, 2014	Task-positive activation 2-back>fix, male ADHD	6	fixation,2	Images (Categorical)
Massat, 2012	2-back>0-back, ADHD children	16	0,2	Numbers
Mattfeld, 2016	2-back>0-back, persisted ADHD adults	4	0,2	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	2-back>1-back, persisted ADHD adults	3	1,2	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3-back>0-back, persisted ADHD adults	5	0,3	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3-back>1-back, persisted ADHD adults	7	1,3	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3>2>1>0-back, persisted ADHD adults	5	0,1,2,3	Letters
Salavert, 2015	2-back>1-back, ADHD adults	1	1,2	Letters
Valera, 2005	2-back>0-back, unmedicated ADHD adults	9	0,2	Letters
Bipolar				
Brooks, 2015	0<1<2-back, depressed Bipolar II	19	0,1,2	Letters
Deckersbach, 2008	2-back>fixation, depressed Bipolar I	20	fixation,2	Letters
Drapier, 2008	2-back>0-back, Bipolar I patients	6	0,2	Letters
Drapier, 2008	3-back>0-back, Bipolar I patients	4	0,3	Letters
Fernandez-Corcuera, 2013	2-back>asterisk baseline, bipolar depressed	5	asterisk,2	Letters
Frangou, 2008	0<1<2<3-back, Bipolar I patients	15	0,1,2,3	Letters
Frangou, 2008	Effect of load 0<1<2<3-back, Bipolar I patients	1	load, 0,1,2,3	Letters
Haldane, 2008	0<1<2<3-back, Bipolar I + Lamotrigine	7	parametric, 0,1,2,3	Letters
Jogia, 2012	3-back>0-back, Euthymic Bipolar I patients	5	0,3	Letters
Macoveanu, 2018	2-back>0-back, Bipolar patients	14	0,2	Dots

Macoveanu, 2018	2-back>0-back, Bipolar patients	23	1,2	Dots
Miskowiak, 2017	2-back>1-back, adult Bipolar I outpatients	13	1,2	Shapes
Monks, 2004	2-back>0-back, male Bipolar Disorder I	16	0,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2012	2-back> asterisk baseline, Manic bipolar patients	11	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>1-back, Bipolar I and II - depressed	11	1,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>1-back, Bipolar I - manic	8	1,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>baseline, Bipolar I and II - depressed	7	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back> baseline, Bipolar I - manic	11	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>1-back, Bipolar I - euthymic	5	1,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>baseline, Bipolar I – euthymic	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2017	2-back> flashing asterisk, Bipolar patients	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Thermenos, 2009	2-back>0-back, Bipolar outpatients	5	0,2	Letters
Townsend, 2010	2-back>0-back, Bipolar I - depressed	20	0,2	Letters
Townsend, 2010	2-back>0-back, Bipolar I - manic	15	0,2	Letters
Townsend, 2010	2-back>0-back, Bipolar I – euthymic	4	0,2	Letters
MDD				
Bartova, 2015	Main effect of activation 2-back>0-back, rMDD	9	0,2	Numbers
Garrett, 2011	2-back>0-back, psychotic Major Depression	15	0,2	Letters
Garrett, 2011	2-back>0-back, nonpsychotic Major Depression	5	0,2	Letters
*Harvey, 2005	1,2,3-back>0-back, unipolar depressive disorder	8	0,2	Letters
Marquand, 2008	Regions contributing to depression during 2-back	18	0,2	Letters
Matsuo, 2007	2-back>1-back, Major Depressive Disorder	7	1,2	Numbers
Matsuo, 2007	2-back>0-back, Major Depressive Disorder	3	0,2	Numbers
Miskowiak, 2016	2-back>0-back, MDD patients	6	0,2	Dots
Miskowiak, 2016	2-back>1-back, MDD patients	4	1,2	Dots
Norbury, 2013	1,2,3-back>0-back, unmedicated rMDD	5	0,1,2,3	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2014	2-back>flashing asterisk, MDD patients	9	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2017	2-back> flashing asterisk, MDD patients	3	asterisk,2	Letters
Rose, 2006	Linear increase over 0,1,2,3-back, MDD patients	9	0,1,2,3	Dots
Schoning, 2009	2-back>1-back, MDD inpatients	28	1,2	Letters
Schoning, 2009	2-back>0-back, MDD inpatients	13	0,2	Letters
Schizophrenia				
Guerrero-Pedraza, 2012	2-back>1-back, Non-affective psychosis	7	1,2	Letters
Guerrero-Pedraza, 2012	2-back>asterisk, Non-affective psychosis	6	asterisk,2	Letters
Guimond, 2018	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic patients	7	0,2	Letters and Faces
Honey, 1999	2-back>0-back, chronic male schizophrenics	11	0,2	Letters
Honey, 2002	2-back>0-back, chronic male schizophrenics	7	0,2	Letters
Honey, 2003	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic patients	13	0,2	Letters
Kim, 2003	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic patients	7	0,2	Shapes
Kumari, 2006	2-back>0-back, non-violent schizophrenic males	18	0,2	Dots
Kumari, 2006	2-back>0-back, violent schizophrenic males	10	0,2	Dots
Kumari, 2009	2-back>rest, schizophrenics (CBT+ TAU)	16	rest,2	Dots
Kumari, 2009	2-back>0-back, schizophrenics (CBT + TAU)	12	0,2	Dots
Li, 2019	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic patients	19	0,2	Shapes and Auditory
Madre, 2013	2-back>asterisk, schizo-affective patients	8	asterisk,2	Letters
Mendrek, 2004	2-back>0-back, stable schizophrenic outpatients	13	0,2	Letters
Nejad, 2011	2-back>1-back, schizophrenic patients	24	1,2	Letters
Nejad, 2011	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic patients	23	0,2	Letters
Perlstein, 2001	load main effect 0,1,2-back, schizophrenics	10	0,1,2	Letters
Royer, 2009	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic patients	21	0,2	Letters
Sapara, 2013	2-back>rest, preserved insight schizophrenics	13	rest,2	Dots
Sapara, 2013	2-back>rest, poor insight schizophrenics	10	rest,2	Dots
Sapara, 2013	2-back>0-back, preserved insight schizophrenics	9	0,2	Dots
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back(d)>0-back(d), untreated schizophrenics	11	0,2 degraded	Letters
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back>0-back, untreated schizophrenics	7	0,2	Letters
Surguladze, 2007	3-back>0-back, schizophrenia + RLAI	5	0,3	Letters

Surguladze, 2007	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia + RLAI	4	0,2	Letters
Surguladze, 2007	3-back>0-back, schizophrenia + CONV	2	0,3	Letters
Surguladze, 2007	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia + CONV	2	0,2	Letters
Tan, 2006	2-back>1-back, schizophrenic patients	9	1,2	Numbers
Yoo, 2005	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic patients	17	0,2*	Faces
Controls				
Bedard, 2014	linear trend across 0,1,2-back, healthy children	7	0,1,2	Dots
Bedard, 2014	2-back>0-back, healthy children	7	0,2	Dots
Bustamante, 2011	2-back>0-back, male matched controls	12	0,2	Letters (Auditory)
Campanella, 2013	2-back>0-back, undergraduate student controls	19	0,2	Numbers
Chantiluke, 2015	3-back>0-back, healthy matched boys	7	0,3*	Letters
Cubillo, 2013	3-back>0-back, healthy control boys	8	0,3	Letters
Cubillo, 2013	2-back>0-back, healthy control boys	7	0,2	Letters
Deckersbach, 2008	2-back>fixation, healthy control females	12	fixation,2	Letters
Drapier, 2008	3-back>0-back, matched controls	7	0,3	Letters
Drapier, 2008	2-back>0-back, matched controls	6	0,2	Letters
Fernandez-Corcuera, 2013	2-back>flashing asterisk, matched controls	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Frangou, 2008	3>2>1>0-back, matched controls	11	0,1,2,3	Letters
Garrett, 2011	2-back>0-back, healthy comparison subjects	11	0,2	Letters
Guimond, 2018	2-back>0-back, healthy controls	8	0,2	Letters and Faces
Harvey, 2005	1,2,3-back>0-back, right-handed control subjects	10	0,2	Letters
Honey, 1999	2-back>0-back, right-handed male controls	12	0,2	Letters
Honey, 2002	2-back>0-back, right-handed matched controls	10	0,2	Letters
Honey, 2003	2-back>0-back, healthy volunteers	11	0,2	Letters
Jogia, 2012	3-back>0-back, healthy controls	5	0,3	Letters
Kim, 2003	2-back>0-back age and sex matched volunteers	8	0,2	Shapes
Kumari, 2006	2-back>0-back, healthy nonviolent men	18	0,2	Dots
Kumari, 2009	2-back>rest, healthy participants	12	rest,2	Dots
Kumari, 2009	2-back>0-back, healthy participants	12	0,2	Dots
Li, 2014	2-back>fixation, right-handed healthy males	3	fixation,2	Images (Categorical)
Li, 2019	2-back>0-back, healthy controls	9	0,2	Shapes and Auditory
Marquand, 2008	2-back>0-back, right-handed controls	19	0,2	Letters
Massat, 2012	2-back>0-back, healthy volunteers	17	0,2	Numbers
Matsuo, 2007	2-back>0-back, healthy controls	2	0,2	Numbers
Mendrek, 2004	2-back>0-back, healthy controls	12	0,2	Letters
Monks, 2004	2-back>0-back, healthy male volunteers	17	0,2	Letters
Norbury, 2013	3>2>1>0-back, healthy controls	6	0,1,2,3	Letters
Pfefferbaum, 2001	2-back>match-to-center, control men	30(28?)	center,2	Dots
Pfefferbaum, 2001	2-back>rest, control men	14	rest,2	Dots
Pomarol-Clotet, 2012	2-back>flashing asterisk, matched controls	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2014	2-back>flashing asterisk, healthy controls	8	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2017	2-back>flashing asterisk, healthy controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Royer, 2009	2-back>0-back, matched adults	18	0,2	Letters
Sapara, 2013	2-back>rest, matched healthy participants	16	rest,2	Dots
Sapara, 2013	2-back>0-back, matched healthy participants	6	0,2	Dots
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back>0-back, healthy controls	15	0,2	Letters
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back degraded>0-back degraded, controls	8	0,2-degraded	Letters
Schoning, 2009	2-back>0-back, healthy control participants	20	0,2	Letters
Schoning, 2009	2-back>1-back, healthy control participants	7	1,2	Letters
Sirnes, 2018	Word 2-back>1-back, control participants	7	1,2	Words of Stroop
Sirnes, 2018	Color 2-back>1-back, control participants	8	1,2	Color of Stroop
Smith, 2010	2-back>0-back, non-using controls	14	0,2	Dots
Surguladze, 2007	3-back>0-back, healthy control volunteers	3	0,3	Letters
Surguladze, 2007	2-back>0-back, healthy control volunteers	3	0,2	Letters
Tan, 2006	2-back>1-back, healthy comparison subjects	7	1,2	Numbers
Tomasi, 2007	2-back>0-back, matched healthy controls	18	0,2	Tomasi

Townsend, 2010	2-back>0-back, healthy control subjects	15	0,2	Letters
Valera, 2005	2-back>0-back, healthy control subjects	5	0,2	Letters
Wesley, 2017	2-back>1-back, control participants	7	1,2	Letters
Yoo, 2005	2-back>0-back, matched healthy volunteers	22	0,2*	Faces

TABLE 2. BETWEEN-GROUPS CONTRASTS

Publication	Contrast	Foci	N-back	Stimulus
Addiction > Controls				
Campanella, 2013	2-back>0-back, binge drinkers>controls	2	0,2	Numbers
Charlet, 2013	2-back>0-back, detoxified ADP>controls	12	0,2	Numbers
Padula, 2007	2-back>0-back, abstinent MJ>controls	3	0,2	Abstract Shapes
Sirnes, 2018	2-back>1-back, opioid-exposed children	2	1,2	Colors
Sirnes, 2018	2-back>1-back, opioid-exposed children	1	1,2	Words
Smith, 2010	2-back>0-back, MJ>controls	3	0,2	Dots
Tomasi, 2007	2-back>0-back, Cocaine>controls	11	0,2	Letters
Tomasi, 2007	2>1>0-back, Cocaine>controls	1	0,1,2 load	Letters
Wesley, 2017	2-back>1-back, Alcohol-dependent>Controls	1	1,2	Letters
Addiction < Controls				
Bustamante, 2011	2-back>0-back, controls>cocaine-dependent	1	0,2	Letters (Auditory)
Daumann, 2003	2-back>rest, controls>heavy MDMA users	1	rest,2	Letters
Daumann(2), 2003	2-back>rest, controls> heavy MDMA users	1	rest,2	Letters
Livny, 2018	2-back>0-back, controls>synthetic cannabinoid	1	0,2	Letters
Livny, 2018	2-back>1-back, controls> synthetic cannabinoid	2	1,2	Letters
Pfefferbaum, 2001	2-back>rest, controls>chronic alcoholics	24	rest,2	Dots
Tomasi, 2007	2-back>0-back, controls>cocaine abusers	10	0,2	Letters
Tomasi, 2007	2>1>0-back, controls>cocaine abusers	2	0,1,2 load	Letters
ADHD > Controls				
Bedard, 2014	2-back>0-back, ADHD youth>controls	2	0,2	Dots
Cubillo, 2013	3>2>1>0-back, ADHD+MPH boys>controls	1	0,1,2,3 load	Letters
Ko, 2015	2-back>0-back, ADHD adults>controls	2	0,2	Numbers
Ko, 2018	2-back>0-back, ADHD adults>controls	3	0,2	Numbers
Li, 2014	2-back>fixation, ADHD males>controls	3	fixation,2	Images (Categorical)
Mattfeld, 2016	2-back>1-back, ADHD adults>controls	1	1,2	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3-back>1-back, ADHD adults>controls	1	1,3	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3-back>2-back, ADHD adults>controls	2	3,2	Letters
Salavert, 2015	2-back>asterisk, ADHD adult patients>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
ADHD < Controls				
Bayerl, 2010	2-back>0-back, controls>adult ADHD patients	1	0,2	Letters
Brown, 2012	2-back>0-back, controls>male ADHD+BPD	2	0,2	Letters
Cubillo, 2013	3>2>1>0-back, controls> ADHD+MPH boys	1	0,1,2,3 load	Letters
Cubillo, 2013	3>2>1>0-back, controls>ADHD+ATX boys	1	0,1,2,3 load	Letters
Kobel, 2009	3+2>0-back, controls>ADHD boys	5	2,3*	Numbers
Mattfeld, 2016	2-back>0-back, controls>ADHD adults	2	0,2	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3-back>0-back, controls>ADHD adults	1	0,3	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3>2>1>0-back, controls>ADHD adults	1	0,1,2,3	Letters
Mattfeld, 2016	3>2>1>0-back, controls>impaired ADHD adults	5	0,1,2,3	Letters
Valera, 2005	2-back>0-back, controls>ADHD adults	2	0,2	Letters
Valera, 2005	2-back>0-back, controls>ADHD-LD adults	1	0,2	Letters
Valera, 2010	2-back>0-back, controls> ADHD adults	2	0,2	Letters
Bipolar > Controls				
Adler, 2004	2-back>0-back, Bipolar patients>controls	8	0,2	Numbers
Alonso-Lana, 2016	2-back>asterisk, euthymic bipolar>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Alonso-Lana, 2019	2-back>asterisk, manic bipolar>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Alonso-Lana, 2019	2-back>asterisk, euthymic bipolar>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Alonso-Lana, 2019	2-back>1-back, manic bipolar>controls	1	1,2	Letters
Deckersbach, 2008	2-back>fixation, Bipolar I disorder>control	4	fixation,2	Letters
Dima, 2016	3-back>0-back, Bipolar patients>control	3	0,3	Letters

Drapier, 2008	2-back>0-back, Bipolar I patients>controls	2	0,2	Letters
Fernandez-Corcuera, 2013	2-back>asterisk, Bipolar depressed>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Frangou, 2017	3-back>0-back, BD I patients>relatives+controls	1	0,3	Letters
Jogia, 2012	3-back>0-back, euthymic BD I>Controls	4	0,3	Letters
Monks, 2004	2-back>0-back, Bipolar disorder I>Controls	3	0,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2012	2-back>asterisk, manic bipolar>controls	3	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>asterisk, Bipolar I manic>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>asterisk, Bipolar I/II depressed>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>asterisk, Bipolar I euthymic> controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2017	2-back>asterisk, Bipolar I patients>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Thermenos, 2009	2-back>0-back, bipolar outpatients>controls	1	0,2	Letters
Bipolar < Controls				
Alonso-Lana, 2019	2-back>asterisk, controls> manic bipolar	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Alonso-Lana, 2019	2-back>1-back, controls>euthymic bipolar	1	1,2	Letters
Brooks, 2015	2>1>0-back(load), controls>Bipolar II depressed	8	0,1,2	Letters
Dima, 2016	3-back>0-back, controls>Bipolar patients	4	0,3	Letters
Fernandez-Corcuera, 2013	2-back>asterisk, controls>Bipolar depressed	3	asterisk,2	Letters
Frangou, 2017	3-back>0-back, relatives+controls> BD I patients	1	0,3	Letters
Jogia, 2012	3-back>0-back, controls>euthymic BD I	1	0,3	Letters
Monks, 2004	2-back>0-back, controls>bipolar disorder I	7	0,2	Letters
Moser, 2018	2-back>0-back, controls>bipolar disorder	3	0,2	Objects
Meusel, 2013	2-back>0-back, controls>MDD+BD	1	0,2	Abstract Objects
Pomarol-Clotet, 2012	2-back>asterisk, controls>manic bipolar	3	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>asterisk, controls> Bipolar I manic	6	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2015	2-back>asterisk, controls>Bipolar I/II depressed	3	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2017	2-back>asterisk, controls>Bipolar I patients	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Thermenos, 2009	2-back>0-back, controls> bipolar outpatients	1	0,2	Letters
MDD > Controls				
Bartova, 2015	2-back>0-back, remitted MDD patients>controls	4	0,2	Numbers
Fitzgerald, 2008	2-back>0-back, MDD>healthy controls	20	0,2	Letters
Harvey, 2005	2-back>0-back, nonpsychotic MDE>controls	3	0,2	Letters
Matsuo, 2007	2-back>1-back, recurrent MDD>healthy controls	2	1,2	Numbers
Nord, 2018	3-back>1-back, MDD patients>controls	1	1,3	Letters
Nord, 2018	3-back>1-back, MDD patients>relatives	12	1,3	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2014	2-back>asterisk, MDD>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2017	2-back>asterisk, MDD>controls	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Rose, 2006	3>2>1>0-back (linear increase), MDD>Controls	1	0,1,2,3	Dots
Schoning, 2009	2-back>0-back, euthymic MDD>Controls	8	0,2	Letters
Yüksel, 2018	3-back>2-back, MDD patients>Controls	1	2,3	Letters
MDD < Controls				
Barch, 2003	2-back>fixation, controls>unipolar MDD	4	fixation,2	Words and Faces
Dumas, 2014	2-back>0-back, controls>MDD old adults	3	0,2	Verbal
Frangou, 2017	3-back>0-back, controls>MDD	1	0,3	Letters
Ionescu, 2015	2-back>1-back, controls>treatment-resistant MD	3	1,2	Numbers
Nord, 2018	3-back>1-back, controls>MDD patients	15	1,3	Letters
Nord, 2018	3-back>1-back, relatives>MDD patients	6	1,3	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2014	2-back>asterisk, controls>MDD	4	asterisk,2	Letters
Rodriguez-Cano, 2017	2-back>asterisk, controls>MDD	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Walsh, 2007	3,2,1>0-back, controls>MDD	2	0,1,2,3	Letters
Yüksel, 2018	2-back>0-back, controls>MDD patients	1	0,2	Letters
Yüksel, 2018	3-back>0-back, controls>MDD patients	2	0,3	Letters
Schizophrenia > Controls				
Bor, 2011	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	3	0,2	Letters and Dots (s)
Bor, 2011	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	1	0,2	Letters and Dots (v)
Becerril, 2010	2-back>fixation, schizophrenia>controls	6	fixation,2	Faces
Callicott, 2000	2>1>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	7	0,1,2	Numbers

Callicott, 2003	2-back>0-back, schizophrenics>controls	7	0,2	Numbers
Ettinger, 2011	2,1,0 (group by load), schizophrenics>controls	2	0,1,2	Dots
Guerrero-Pedraza, 2012	2-back>asterisk, first episode psychosis>controls	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Guimond, 2018	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia patients>controls	1	0,2	Faces
Habel, 2010	2-back>0-back, male schizophrenics>controls	5	0,2	Letters
Jansma, 2003	3,2,1>0-back, schizophrenics (atypical)>controls	7	0,1,2,3*	Dots
Li, 2019	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia patients>controls	3	0,2	Symbols and Shapes
Madre, 2013	2>1>asterisk, schizo-affectives>controls	1	asterisk,1,2	Letters
Mendrek, 2004	2-back>0-back, schizophrenics>controls	6	0,2	Letters
Meyer-Lindenberg, 2001	2-back>0-back, schizophrenics>matched controls	4	0.2	Numbers
Nejad, 2011	2-back>1-back, first-episode SCZ>controls	6	1,2	Letters
Ortiz-Gil, 2011	2-back>1-back, schizophrenics>controls	2	1,2	Letters
Ortiz-Gil, 2011	2-back>asterisk, schizophrenics>controls	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2008	2-back>asterisk, chronic schizophrenia>controls	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2010	2-back>asterisk, schizophrenic patients>controls	2	asterisk,2	Letters
Royer, 2009	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	4	0,2	Letters
Sabri, 2003	2-back>0-back, chronic schizophrenia>controls	9	0,2	Numbers
Salgado-Pineda, 2018	2-back>1-back, chronic schizophrenia>controls	18	1,2	Letters
Salgado-Pineda, 2018	2-back>1-back, FEP schizophrenia>controls	6	1,2	Letters
Sapara, 2013	2-back>rest, schizophrenia>controls	5	rest,2	Dots
Sapara, 2013	2-back>1-back, schizophrenia>controls	3	1,2	Dots
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back>0-back, schizophrenic inpatients>controls	1	0,2	Letters
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back (d)>0-back (d), schizophrenia>controls	1	0d, 2d	Letters
Schneider, 2007	2-Back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	3	0,2	Letters
Tan, 2006	2-back>1-back, schizophrenia>controls	2	1,2	Numbers
Thermenos, 2016	2-back>0-back, CHR for schizophrenia>controls	2	0,2	Letters
Walter, 2003	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	1	0,2	Letters
Yoo, 2005	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	2	0,2*	Faces
Schizophrenia < Controls				
Callicott, 2000	2>1>0-back, controls>schizophrenia	7	0,1,2	Numbers
Callicott, 2003	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenics	7	0,2	Numbers
Guimond, 2018	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenia patients	1	0,2	Faces
Habel, 2010	2-back>0-back, controls>male schizophrenics	6	0,2	Letters
Honey, 2003	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenic patients	2	0,2	Letters
Karch, 2009	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenic patients	13	0,2	Numbers
Kumari, 2006	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenia	1	0,2	Dots
Loeb, 2018	2-back>1-back, controls>COS	12	1,2	Letters
Loeb, 2018	2-back>1-back, siblings>COS	11	1,2	Letters
Madre, 2013	2>1>asterisk, controls> schizo-affectives	3	asterisk,1,2	Letters
Meisenzahl, 2006	2-back>0-back controls>schizophrenic inpatients	8	0,2	Letters
Mendrek, 2004	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenia	2	0,2	Letters
Meyer-Lindenberg, 2001	2-back>0-back, matched controls>schizophrenics	5	0,2	Numbers
Moser, 2018	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	6	0,2	Objects
Ortiz-Gil, 2011	2-back>asterisk, controls>schizophrenics	1	asterisk,2	Letters
Perlstein, 2001	GroupXload (0,1,2-back), controls>schizophrenia	1	0,1,2	Letters
Perlstein, 2003	GroupXload(0,1,2-back), controls>schizophrenia	1	0,1,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2008	2-back>asterisk, controls>chronic schizophrenia	3	asterisk,2	Letters
Pomarol-Clotet, 2010	2-back>asterisk, controls>schizophrenic patients	3	asterisk,2	Letters
Salgado-Pineda, 2018	2-back>1-back, controls>chronic schizophrenia	36	1,2	Letters
Salgado-Pineda, 2018	2-back>1-back controls>FEP schizophrenia	12	1,2	Letters
Sapara, 2013	2-back>0-back, schizophrenia>controls	3	0,2	Dots
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenic inpatients	3	0,2	Letters
Scheuerecker, 2008	2-back (d)>0-back (d), controls>schizophrenia	1	0d,2d	Letters
Schneider, 2007	2-Back>0-back, controls>schizophrenia	2	0,2	Letters
Wykes, 2002	2-back>0-back, controls>schizophrenia	10	0,2	Letters
Yoo, 2005	2-back>0-back, controls> schizophrenia	15	0,2*	Faces

TABLE 3. RESULTS

Condition/Cluster	Volume (mm³)	Peak Coordinates (x, y, z)	Label	Brodmann area
Addiction				
Cluster 1	6728	37.5, 15.7, 40	Right MFG	6/9
Cluster 2	3672	-1.4, 21.5, 44.1	Left Cingulate Gyrus	8
Cluster 3	3648	-35.2, -53.2, 45.3	Left IPL	40/7
Cluster 4	2984	-25.7, 0.5, 50.2	Left MFG	6
Cluster 5	2848	40.5, -46.8, 41.6	Right IPL	40
ADHD				
Cluster 1	5976	-1.3, 21.1, 41	Left MFG	32/6
Cluster 2	3896	-41.2, 5.9, 30.3	Left precentral gyrus	9
Cluster 3	3504	37.6, -41, 39.6	Right IPL	40
Cluster 4	3296	38.6, 32.9, 27.8	Right MFG	9
Cluster 5	3096	-26.8, -60.9, -18.7	Left Declive	*
Bipolar Disorder				
Cluster 1	7000	-38.8, -48.7, 38.7	Left IPL	40
Cluster 2	6368	45.3, -44.5, 40.9	Right IPL	40
Cluster 3	3608	41.9, 32, 26.4	Right MFG	9
Cluster 4	3264	-1.1, 14.7, 46.1	Left Cingulate Gyrus	6
Cluster 5	3016	-40, 3.7, 29.9	Left Precentral Gyrus	6
Cluster 6	2848	34.5, 18, 1.1	Right Insula	47
Cluster 7	2536	48, 9.3, 24	Right IFG	9
Cluster 8	2352	27.9, 4.8 ,46.5	Right MFG	6
Controls				
Cluster 1	11976	-41.3, 8.2, 34.1	Left MFG	6
Cluster 2	11760	33.3, -55.8, 42.9	Right IPL	7/40
Cluster 3	11608	-36.5, -50.3, 41.4	Left IPL	40
Cluster 4	8400	0.1, 16.6, 45.1	Right MFG	6/32
Cluster 5	7152	45.2, 24.8, 26.3	Right MFG	9
Cluster 6	6424	-35, -65, -21	Left Declive	*
Cluster 7	5552	-4.8, -9.8, 11.5	Left Thalamus (MD)	*
Cluster 8	4560	30.8, 8.7, 51.6	Right MFG	6
Cluster 9	4448	-30.9, 19.1, 2.2	Left Insula	13
Cluster 10	4224	32.5, 19.4, -1	Right Insula	13/47
Cluster 11	3808	34.6, -62.6, -23	Right Declive	*
Depression				
Cluster 1	5496	41.1,- 48.4, 39.2	Right IPL	40
Cluster 2	3144	-35.1, -49.4, 38.2	Left IPL	40
Cluster 3	2920	1.1, 17.6, 43.3	Right Cingulate Gyrus	32
Psychopathologies				
Cluster 1	23424	38, 20.6, 32.1	Right MFG	6/9
Cluster 2	22176	-36.7, 11.1, 28.9	Left MFG	6/9
Cluster 3	14032	40.9,-47.1,41.1	Right IPL	40
Cluster 4	13144	-35.8, -50.4, 40.9	Left IPL	40
Cluster 5	10528	-0.3, 18.8, 43.4	Left MFG/Cingulate	6/32

Cluster 6	5304	32.6, 20.1, 1.4	Right Insula	13
Cluster 7	4648	33.4, -62.7, -19.3	Right Cerebellar Declive	N/A
Cluster 8	4504	-15.2, -2.8, 9.7	Left Lentiform Nucleus	N/A
Cluster 9	4456	-30.5, -62.8, -21.2	Left Cerebellar Declive	N/A
Cluster 10	4392	-34.3, 49.6, 7.8	Left MFG	10
Schizophrenia				
Cluster 1	9448	40.4, -47.7, 42.5	Right IPL	40
Cluster 2	9424	-35.1, -51.2, 42	Left IPL	40
Cluster 3	8992	37.8, 5.9, 41.3	Right MFG	6
Cluster 4	5320	-45.8, 18.6, 25.3	Left MFG	9
Cluster 5	4344	-29.8, 5.5, 48.9	Left MFG	6
Cluster 6	3904	3.3, 19.6, 41.4	Right Cingulate Gyrus	32
Cluster 7	2952	40.7, 36.3, 26.7	Right MFG	9
Cluster 8	2936	34.4, 20.6, 6.2	Right Insula	13
Cluster 9	2784	-32.8, -61.7, -17	Left Declive	*
Cluster 10	2744	35.7, -60.7, -17.2	Right Declive	*
Controls > Addiction				
Cluster 1	2096	-35.3, -64.7, 37.2	Left Precuneus	39
Controls > ADHD				
Cluster 1	2416	39.6, 13.3, 34.8	Right MFG	9
Controls > Bipolar				
Cluster 1	2104	-32.5, -0.2, 48.3	Left MFG	6
Controls > Depression				
None				
Controls > Schizophrenia				
Cluster 1	2576	4.1, - 58.1, -16.9	Right Culmen	*
Cluster 2	2224	32.5, 23.4, -2.9	Right IFG	47
Addiction > Controls				
None				
ADHD > Controls				
None				
Bipolar > Controls				
Cluster 1	4112	-1.2, 38.3, -13.7	Left MFG	11
Depression > Controls				
None				
Schizophrenia > Controls				
Cluster 1	6000	-2, 32.3, -8.2	Left anterior cingulate	11/32
Psychopathologies > Controls				
Cluster 1	11720	-2, 34.2, -7.7	Left anterior cingulate	11/32
Controls > Psychopathologies				
Cluster 1	4480	5.2, -61, 46.5	Right Precuneus	7
Cluster 2	2928	33.5, 20.5, -2.8	Right Insula	13