Not just one *p*: Multivariate GWAS of psychiatric disorders and their cardinal symptoms

reveal two dimensions of cross-cutting genetic liabilities

Travis T. Mallard[1], Richard K. Linnér[2, 3], Aysu Okbay[2], Andrew D. Grotzinger[1], Ronald de

Vlaming[2,4], S. Fleur W. Meddens[2,4], Elliot M. Tucker-Drob[1,5], Kenneth S. Kendler[6,7], Matthew

C. Keller[8,9], Philipp D. Koellinger[2,4]*, & K. Paige Harden[1,5]*

[1]Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

[2]Department of Economics, School of Business and Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the

Netherlands

[3]Autism and Developmental Medicine Institute, Geisinger, Lewisburg, PA

[4]Department of Applied Economics, Erasmus School of Economics, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the

Netherlands

[5]Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX USA

[6]Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

[7]Department of Psychiatry, Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

[8]Institute for Behavioral Genetics, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA

[9]Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA

*Work was jointly supervised by these authors.

Correspondence to:

Travis T. Mallard, M.A., Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin, 108 E. Dean Keeton Street,

Stop A8000, Austin, TX 78712, USA. E-mail: travis.mallard@utexas.edu

K. Paige Harden, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin, 108 E. Dean Keeton Street,

Stop A8000, Austin, TX 78712, USA. E-mail: harden@utexas.edu

28   **Abstract**

A single dimension of general psychopathology, *p*, has been hypothesized to represent a general

liability that spans multiple types of psychiatric disorders and non-clinical variation in psychiatric

symptoms across the lifespan. We conducted genome-wide association analyses of lifetime

symptoms of mania, psychosis, irritability in 124,952 to 208,315 individuals from UK Biobank,

and then applied Genomic SEM to model the genetic relationships between these psychiatric

symptoms and clinically-defined psychiatric disorders (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major

depressive disorder). Two dimensions of cross-cutting genetic liability emerged: general

vulnerability to self-reported symptoms (p_{self}) versus transdiagnostic vulnerability to clinically-

diagnosed disease ($p_{clinician}$). These were only modestly correlated ($r_g = .344$). Multivariate GWAS

identified 145 and 11 independent and genome-wide significant loci for $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self},

respectively, and improved polygenic prediction, relative to univariate GWAS, in hold-out

samples. Despite the severe impairments in occupational and educational functioning seen in

patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, p_{self} showed stronger and more pervasive genetic

correlations with facets of socioeconomic disadvantage (educational attainment, income, and

neighborhood deprivation), whereas $p_{clinician}$ was more strongly associated with medical disorders

unrelated to the brain. Genetic variance in $p_{clinician}$ that was unrelated to general vulnerability to

psychiatric symptoms was associated with *less* socioeconomic disadvantage, suggesting positive

selection biases in clinical samples used in psychiatric GWAS. These findings inform criticisms

of psychiatric nosology by suggesting that cross-disorder genetic liabilities identified in GWASs

of clinician-defined psychiatric disease are relatively distinct from genetic liabilities operating on

self-reported symptom variation in the general population.

50   **Introduction**

51   Psychiatric nosology draws boundaries between normality and abnormality, and between

different types of abnormality (1,2). However, genome-wide association studies (GWASs) have

found that psychiatric disorders have a massively polygenic architecture, with near-ubiquitous

genetic correlations among them (3–5). These genetic correlations have motivated arguments that

current clinical boundaries are invalid, as they do not reflect the extensive overlap in underlying

genetic liabilities (5). Following McKusick's classic paper on the nosology of genetic diseases (6),

we term this the "lumping critique." Additionally, the polygenicity of psychiatric disorders has re-

invigorated what we term the "dimensional critique": Clinically-defined disorders are alleged to

represent the extreme (and arbitrarily-defined) ends of quantitative dimensions of risk

encompassing the entire population (7–9).

61   Initiatives like the Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) (2), the Hierarchical Taxonomy of

Psychopathology (HiTOP) (10), and proposed revisions to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual

of Mental Disorders (*DSM-5*) (11) have advanced both the lumping and the dimensional critiques,

arguing that the pathogenic processes underlying psychiatric disease cut across the boundaries

between different diagnostic entities and across the boundaries between normality and abnormality

(12). Perhaps the most radical expression of this view is the proposal that *all* forms of psychiatric

disease share a common set of pathogenic processes, which can be investigated using a latent

factor, *p*. The *p* factor has been conceptualized as representing a general liability to psychiatric

symptoms that cuts across diagnostic entities, across the range of symptom severity, and across

the lifespan (13,14). Although the lumping and the dimensional critiques are frequently advanced

together to challenge psychiatric nosology, they are separable. Psychiatric diseases might share

underlying pathogenic processes without those same processes operating throughout the entire

range of symptoms.

Moreover, debates about psychiatric nosology often implicitly assume that the same model

will be true for all forms of psychopathology, when, in fact, some diagnostic entities might be

better conceptualized as extreme ends of a continuous distribution than others (15–17). The

lumping and dimensional critiques of psychiatric nosology have been most hotly debated with

regard to schizophrenia and bipolar disorder (18–22). Some theorists propose that disorders such

as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder should be replaced by a dimensional psychosis

spectrum (18,19). Proponents of this model argue that psychotic experiences, including mania, are

common in the general population and exhibit phenomenological and temporal continuity with

psychotic disorders (23,24). However, others have reported that psychotic experiences in the

general population share nonspecific, bi-directional associations with a wide range of mental

disorders (25–28) and can reflect misinterpretations of normative experiences (26).

The validity of the dimensional critique has also fed into debates about GWAS research

design. If valid, embracing "minimal phenotyping" in non-clinical samples has the potential to

accelerate genetic discovery via dramatic increases in sample size, as self-report survey measures

of psychiatric symptoms can be administered at scale to population-based or convenience samples.

In contrast, clinical-level pathology is currently demarcated not only by severity of symptoms, but

also by their co-occurrence within a specified timeframe. This requires a phenotypic approach that

can be slow, difficult, and costly. The argument for minimal phenotyping has been forwarded in

recent GWASs that have jointly analyzed clinically-defined depression phenotypes, depressive

symptoms, and related traits such as neuroticism and subjective well-being (8,29). Others have

argued, however, that minimal phenotyping might preferentially detect genetic variants that are

non-specific to any one disorder (30).

Previous efforts to use molecular genetic data to inform psychiatric nosology and GWAS

research design have typically addressed either the dimensional or the lumping critique, but not

both. Addressing the dimensional critique, previous studies have examined the genetic correlation

between a single clinically-defined disorder and normal-range symptom variation, e.g., between

attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder diagnoses and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder

symptom counts (15). These studies, however, have not typically incorporated genetic data from

multiple clinically-defined diagnostic entities. Alternatively, addressing the lumping critique,

previous studies have documented genetic relationships among clinical-defined disorders (5) but

have not extensively probed the extent to which the genetic overlap among them can be projected

downward into the normal range of symptom variation.

The present paper addresses both the lumping and dimensional critiques by conducting a

multivariate GWAS of multiple clinically-defined disorders and of normal-range variation in these

disorders' cardinal symptoms. First, we conducted GWASs of lifetime symptoms of irritability,

mania, and psychosis in a population-based sample, and examine the pairwise genetic correlations

among these symptom dimensions, depressive symptoms, and lifetime diagnoses of serious

psychiatric disorders (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder). Next, we

apply Genomic SEM (31) to test formal models of the genetic covariance among multiple

psychiatric disorders and symptom dimensions.

Method

Genome-wide association analyses

Using unrelated, European-ancestry participants in UK Biobank, we conducted GWASs of

irritability (1 symptom; $N = 205{,}270$), mania (up to 9 symptoms; $N = 208{,}315$), and psychosis (up

to 6 symptoms; $N = 124{,}952$). Sample description, study procedure, and quality control protocol

are described in Supplementary Note section 1. Symptoms were assessed on up to two occasions,

and item-level reports across measurement occasions were combined using a Bayesian item-

response theory model (32,33) (Supplementary Note sections 2-4). Association analyses were

performed using a SNPtest (34) and EasyQC (35) pipeline.

Gene-based association and gene set enrichment analyses

We used MAGMA version 1.07 (Multi-marker Analysis of GenoMic Annotation) (36) to

conduct gene-based association and gene-set enrichment analyses (Supplementary Note section

5). For the gene-based association analyses, we used default MAGMA parameters and standard

procedures for gene-based association analyses based on summary statistics. For gene set

enrichment analyses, we tested 5,917 gene sets corresponding to 4436 biological processes, 580

cellular components, and 901 molecular functions.

Heritability and genetic correlation analyses

We used Linkage Disequilibrium (LD) Score regression to estimate heritabilities,

partitioned heritabilities, and genetic correlations among seven core phenotypes: symptoms of

irritability, mania, and psychosis, which were the focus of our novel GWASs; symptoms of

depression, which were analyzed in a previous large-scale GWAS (29); and three psychiatric

disorders (bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, major depressive disorder) (8,37,38) that are

characterized by these symptoms (Supplementary Note section 6). These GWASs and their

phenotypes are described in Table 1. We also used LD Score regression to estimate genetic

correlations among the latent factors estimated in our Genomic SEM analyses and related traits.

Genomic structural equation modeling

Genomic SEM, a statistical method that provides a flexible framework for applying

structural equation modeling methods to GWAS results, was used to test a series of four

confirmatory factor models, which were informed by psychiatric and psychometric theory (31)

(Supplementary Note section 8). After we identified the best-fitting confirmatory factor model, we

conducted a multivariate GWAS that estimated individual SNP effects on each latent factor

(Supplementary Note section 8). Finally, we used a multivariate regression framework to estimate

a series of partial genetic correlations between latent factors of psychopathology and related

sociodemographic and medical traits. All reported estimates in the main text were derived from

weighted least squares estimation, but estimates derived from maximum likelihood estimation are

reported in the supplementary materials.

Polygenic prediction analyses

UK Biobank. We conducted a series of polygenic score analyses predicting (i) symptoms

of irritability, mania, and psychosis, as well as (ii) bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and

schizoaffective disorder case status in UK Biobank holdout samples (Supplementary Note section

1). Polygenic scores were constructed for seven univariate GWAS phenotypes and two

multivariate GWAS phenotypes. For all polygenic scores, we restricted variants to bi-allelic

HapMap3 SNPs that were present in both the summary statistics and the prediction sample. We

then used LDpred (39) to correct for the LD between SNPs and PLINK 1.9 (40) to calculate a

polygenic score for each participant (Supplementary Note sections 7 & 11).

Philadelphia Neurodevelopmental Cohort. We further tested the validity of our

multivariate GWAS results in the Philadelphia Neurodevelopmental Cohort, an independent

sample of youths aged 8 to 21 (Supplementary Note section 11). Specifically, we tested a series of

models with polygenic scores for *p* factors predicting latent factors of general psychopathology,

thought problems, internalizing problems, and externalizing problems. Polygenic scores were

constructed as in UK Biobank.

165   **Results**

Univariate GWAS of irritability, mania, and psychosis detects 11 loci associated with

psychiatric symptoms

The quantile–quantile plots (Supplementary Figure 3) exhibit inflation of the median test

statistic for irritability (λ_{GC} = 1.197), mania (λ_{GC} = 1.178), and psychosis (λ_{GC} = 1.038). The

estimated intercept from LD Score regression suggests that nearly all the inflation for irritability

(0.9965), mania (1.013), and psychosis (1.002) is due to polygenic signal rather than bias. Using a

clumping procedure (Supplementary Note), we identified 6, 4, and 1 approximately independent

SNPs reaching genome-wide significance (*i.e.*, lead SNPs) for irritability, mania, and psychosis,

respectively, with 1 lead SNP overlapping across irritability and mania (Supplementary Figure 3;

Supplementary Table 5). Systematic queries of the NHGRI-EBI GWAS Catalog revealed that one

lead SNP (rs9862795) is in moderate-to-high LD with SNPs previously associated with

educational attainment (41), intelligence (41), and depressed affect (42). Other SNPs yielded no

matches in the NHGRI-EBI GWAS Catalog and can be considered novel loci.

Gene-wise analyses identified, after correcting for multiple testing, 25 significant genes

associated with mania and 25 associated with irritability (9 of which overlap across phenotypes;

Supplementary Table 7). In Supplementary Note section 5, we discuss some of these genes in more

detail, including: *DRD2*, *CAMKV*, and *IP6K1*. No gene emerged as significantly associated with

psychosis. No gene sets were associated with the irritability, mania, or psychosis phenotypes after

correction for multiple comparisons (Supplementary Table 8).

Partitioned heritability analyses indicate that several genomic annotations were enriched

for irritability and mania, including: regions conserved in mammals, DNase hypersensitivity sites,

fetal DNase hypersensitivity sites, and H3K9ac peaks (Supplementary Table 10). No genomic

annotation was enriched for psychosis after correcting for multiple testing. There was little

evidence of tissue-specific enrichment for irritability, mania, and psychosis after correcting for

multiple testing (Supplementary Table 11), though several brain regions were enriched for

irritability (Supplementary Note section 6).

Genetic correlations among symptom dimensions and psychiatric disorders identify two

distinct dimensions of cross-cutting genetic liability

As illustrated in **Figure 1** (Supplementary Table 12), we observed large genetic

correlations among pairs of psychiatric symptoms: irritability and mania (r_g = .880, *SE* = .020),

mania and psychosis (r_g = .725, *SE* = .092), and mania and depression (r_g = .775, *SE* = .039).

However, we observed smaller genetic correlations between some psychiatric disorders and their

cardinal symptoms, such as between bipolar disorder and mania (r_g = .245, *SE* = .040), bipolar

disorder and irritability (r_g = .156, *SE* = .038), and schizophrenia and psychosis (r_g = .405, *SE* =

.067).

We next formally modeled the genetic covariance matrix using Genomic SEM

(Supplementary Figure 6), testing four confirmatory factor models: (i) Model A, a common factor

model with all indicators loading onto a single latent *p* factor, as has been previously proposed

(13,14); (ii) Model B, a correlated factors model with indicators loading onto latent factors of

affective versus psychotic psychopathology, (iii) Model C, a correlated factors model with

indicators loading onto distinct latent *p* factors for psychiatric disorders and symptom dimensions,

and (iv) Model D, a correlated factors model with indicators loading onto distinct latent *p* factors

for clinician- and self-rated psychopathology, allowing for cross-loadings when studies combined

measurement approaches. Model comparisons are summarized below and further described in the

supplementary materials (Supplementary Note section 8, Supplementary Table 20 & 21). Only

Model D showed good fit to the data (χ^2 (11) = 196.82, AIC = 230.82, CFI = .952, SRMR = .059)

(**Figure 2**). There was not just one p: The patterns of genetic covariance between symptom

dimensions and psychiatric disorders were most parsimoniously represented by $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self},

which were correlated only modestly (r_g = .344).

Multivariate GWAS of p factors

In multivariate GWAS testing associations between individual SNPs and latent factors, we

observed inflation of the median test statistic for both $p_{clinician}$ (λ_{GC} = 1.585) and p_{self} (λ_{GC} = 1.403).

The estimated intercept from LD Score regression for $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self} (0.9751 and 0.9911,

respectively) suggests that nearly all the inflation is due to polygenic signal rather than bias

(**Figure 3**). Using the clumping procedure described in the Supplementary Note, we identified 145

and 11 approximately-independent lead SNPs for $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self}, respectively (Supplementary

Table 22).

After correcting for multiple testing, gene-wise analyses identified 370 genes associated

with $p_{clinician}$ and 47 genes associated with p_{self} (Supplementary Table 24). Sixty-two of the genes

associated with $p_{clinician}$ and twenty-one of the genes associated with p_{self} can be considered novel,

as they were not associated with any of the constituent GWAS phenotypes. Moreover, only 11

genes were associated with both p factors. We discuss some of the genes associated with the p

factors in Supplementary Note section 9, such as *RBFOX1*. The results of gene set enrichment

analyses are further consistent with a distinction between $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self}, as no gene sets were

associated with both p factors (Supplementary Note section 9, Supplementary Table 26). Results

for $p_{\text{clinician}}$ and p_{self} begin to converge on similar biological systems only at a less-granular level of

analysis. Partitioned heritability results indicate that similar functional annotations across the

genome were enriched for both $p_{\text{clinician}}$ and p_{self}, as were various brain tissues (Supplementary Note

section 10; Supplementary Tables 27-28).

235   Polygenic score analyses in hold-out samples (i) supported the validity of the multivariate

GWAS results, and (ii) demonstrated that multivariate GWAS generally improved polygenic

prediction relative to univariate GWAS (Supplementary Figures 7-8; Supplementary Tables 13-

19, 30-31). Compared to the best univariate PGS, $p_{\text{clinician}}$ resulted in a ~1.10-fold average increase

in ΔR^2 and p_{self} resulted in a ~1.65-fold average increase. Overall, the $p_{\text{clinician}}$ polygenic score

demonstrated greater predictive ability for clinician-rated diagnoses (R^2 ranging from 2.48% to

6.30%) than p_{self} (R^2 ranging from .45% to .73%), whereas the p_{self} polygenic score demonstrated

greater predictive ability for self-rated symptoms (R^2 ranging from .14% to 1.10%) than $p_{\text{clinician}}$

(R^2 ranging from .02% to .31%) (**Figure 4**). We observed a similar pattern of results in the

Philadelphia Neurodevelopmental Cohort ($N = 4{,}551$), where the p_{self} polygenic score was

positively associated with a general factor of psychopathology constructed from self-report

measures (pseudo $R^2 = 1.34\%$, $P = 2.69\text{E-}13$), while $p_{\text{clinician}}$ was not (Supplementary Table 32).

Exploring the divergent genetic architecture between p factors

248   We identified pervasive correlations between p_{self} and worse cognitive performance, social

disadvantage, and accelerated reproductive development and mortality (**Figure 4**; Supplementary

Table 29). Notably, $p_{\text{clinician}}$ shows a more consistent pattern of genetic correlations with medical

diagnoses unrelated to the brain, whereas p_{self} appears to capture the genetic liability toward worse

social position more strongly than $p_{\text{clinician}}$. To further probe the latter finding, we used Genomic

SEM to estimate the genetic correlations between the p factors and a latent genetic factor of general

social advantage, which captured genetic variance generally associated with social stratification in

educational attainment, income, and (reverse-coded) area-based social deprivation (41,43). We

then used a multivariate regression model that simultaneously regressed $p_{\text{clinician}}$ on social

advantage and on p_{self} (Supplementary Figure 13). This analysis estimated the genetic correlation

between social advantage and variance in $p_{\text{clinician}}$ that was distinct from $p_{\text{self.}}$ Additionally, this

analysis estimated the genetic correlation between $p_{\text{clinician}}$ and p_{self} after statistically accounting for

their diverging genetic correlations with social advantage. Full results are reported in

Supplementary Tables 33-34.

There were three findings. First, consistent with bivariate genetic correlations reported

above, p_{self} was negatively associated with social advantage (r_{g} = -.431, SE = .025). In contrast,

the variance in $p_{\text{clinician}}$ unique of p_{self} had a positive genetic relationship with social advantage (b_{g}

= .238, SE = .037). After accounting for their diverging relationships with social advantage, the

genetic relationship between $p_{\text{clinician}}$ and p_{self} increased (b_{g} = .487, SE = .055; compared to r_{g} =

.352, SE = .034 without controlling for social advantage).

268   **Discussion**

Widespread comorbidity (44) and ubiquitous genetic correlations (5) among disorders has

motivated the proposal that a single dimension of liability, *p,* cuts across the boundaries between

different diagnostic entities and across the boundary between normality and abnormality (13,14).

Jointly analyzing GWAS data from seven psychiatric disorders and symptoms, we identified novel

loci for psychiatric phenotypes. And, we found evidence for more than one *p*: The dimension of

genetic risk that cuts across clinician-defined diseases was largely distinct from the dimension of

genetic risk that cuts across self-reported symptoms. To make sense of this, consider five ways

clinician-rated psychopathology differs from self-reported symptoms: (i) severity, (ii) temporal

clustering, (iii) heterogeneity of symptom type, (iv) insight, and (v) sources of selection.

278   First, people with clinically-defined psychiatric disorders have more numerous and severe

symptoms than people who do not meet diagnostic-criteria. Dimensional models of

psychopathology predict that the same dimension of genetic risk would underlie the entire range

of symptom severity. However, polygenic scores calculated from case/control studies of

schizophrenia are weak and inconsistent predictors of the severity of schizophrenia symptoms

(45,46). Similarly, our results suggest that the severity of symptoms evident in clinical disorders

might reflect a difference in kind, rather than merely in degree.

285   These results also suggest new possibilities for dimensional measurement. Currently, the

most common approach to measuring psychopathology in non-clinical samples is to begin with

the symptoms of *DSM-5* or *ICD-10* disorders and ask people if they experience some symptoms,

some of the time. An alternative approach is to begin with the genetic variants that are associated

with clinical disorders and identify which phenotypes are characteristic of people in the general

population who have elevated polygenic risk. For instance, polygenic risk for schizophrenia has

been associated with illicit drug use in emerging adulthood and with anxiety rather than psychosis

in adolescence (45,47). "Phenome-wide" association studies of polygenic scores derived from

GWASs of psychiatric disorders might advance the construction of new dimensional measures of

psychopathology (48–50).

295   Second, psychiatric disorders are defined by combinations of symptoms that might be

heterogeneous with respect to genetic architecture, potentially attenuating the genetic correlation

with any one symptom. For instance, low genetic correlation between clinician-rated schizophrenia

and self-rated psychotic symptoms might be due to genetic influences on symptom domains not

assessed, such as negative symptoms.

Third, clinical assessment pays close attention to temporal frame during which symptoms

co-occur (Supplementary Figure 14). In contrast, temporal clustering is not always considered in

self-reports of symptoms. In UK Biobank, for example, the assessment of mania refers to

symptoms that occur within a single period, but the measures of psychotic symptoms all refer to

lifetime occurrence. Little work has considered whether the genetic etiology of a symptoms that

occurs synchronously with another differs from the genetic etiology of that same symptom in

temporal isolation.

Fourth, people have unique insight into their own internal mental states, but they lack

perfect insight into how their behaviors are perceived by others, and they might be motivated to

diminish their symptoms because of social desirability biases. The relatively modest genetic

correlations between the p factors could reflect these asymmetries and biases. Moreover, some

symptoms (*e.g.*, delusional thinking) themselves impair people's ability to report accurately on

their psychological experiences.

Finally, samples of people with clinician-rated disorders (particularly when those disorders

are rare and seriously impairing) are subject to different sources of selection, attrition, and non-

response than population-based studies that utilize self-report surveys. Previous research has found

that genetic variants associated with educational attainment and schizophrenia predict research

participation (51,52). These selection processes could induce a collider bias, leading to misleading

estimates of genetic correlations (53).

We conducted an initial exploration of the potential role of selection bias by estimating the

unique genetic correlations between social advantage and both p factors. Although patients with

serious mental illness face severe educational and occupational impairments, we find that the

genetic variance unique to clinician-rated disorders was associated with *less* socioeconomic

disadvantage. This result suggests that patients represented in genetic association studies of

schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder might be positively selected for

social status. Consider, for instance, that incarcerated persons in Western countries are two- to

four-times more likely than the general population to have a psychotic disorder (54), and the rate

of serious mental illness in homeless populations is about 20% (55), but these socially-

marginalized groups are less likely to have access to adequate mental health care or be included in

medical research. At the same time, our GWASs of psychiatric symptoms rely on UK Biobank, a

volunteer sample that is generally healthier and more socially advantaged than the UK population

(56,57). As GWAS samples continue to grow, we expect that researchers will pay increasing

attention to issues around population representativeness.

In conclusion, current psychiatric nosology has been criticized for failing to account for

the ubiquitous genetic correlations among clinically-defined disorders and for embracing

categorical disease entities rather than continuous dimensions of risk. We conducted the first-ever

multivariate GWAS of multiple symptoms and disorders, and found that the genetic liabilities

operating on self-reported symptom variation were largely distinct from the genetic liabilities

operating on clinically-defined psychiatric diseases. These results refine criticisms of psychiatric

nosology and suggest that further research is needed to understand cross-cutting genetic risks.

340   **References**

1.   Kendler KS. An historical framework for psychiatric nosology. Psychol Med.
2009;39(12):1935–41.

2.   Insel T, Cuthbert B, Garvey M, Heinssen R, Pine DS, Quinn K, et al. Research domain
criteria (RDoC): toward a new classification framework for research on mental disorders.
Am Psychiatric Assoc; 2010.

3.   Wray NR, Wijmenga C, Sullivan PF, Yang J, Visscher PM. Common Disease Is More
Complex Than Implied by the Core Gene Omnigenic Model. Cell. 2018;173(7):1573–80.

4.   Bulik-Sullivan B, Finucane HK, Anttila V, Gusev A, Day FR, Loh PR, et al. An atlas of
genetic correlations across human diseases and traits. Nat Genet. 2015;47(11):1236–41.

5.   Anttila V, Bulik-Sullivan B, Finucane HK, Walters RK, Bras J, Duncan L, et al. Analysis
of shared heritability in common disorders of the brain. Science (80-).
2018;360(6395):eaap8757.

6.   McKusick VA. On Lumpers and Splitters, or the Nosology of Genetic Disease. Perspect
Biol Med. 1969;12(2):298–312.

7.   Smoller JW, Andreassen OA, Edenberg HJ, Faraone S V, Glatt SJ, Kendler KS.
Psychiatric genetics and the structure of psychopathology. Mol Psychiatry. 2018;1.

8.   Wray NR, Ripke S, Mattheisen M, Trzaskowski M, Byrne EM, Abdellaoui A, et al.
Genome-wide association analyses identify 44 risk variants and refine the genetic
architecture of major depression. Nat Genet. 2018 May;50(5):668–81.

9.   Plomin R, Haworth CMA, Davis OSP. Common disorders are quantitative traits. Nat Rev
Genet. 2009;10(12):872.

10.   Kotov R, Krueger RF, Watson D, Achenbach TM, Althoff RR, Bagby RM, et al. The
Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP): A dimensional alternative to
traditional nosologies. J Abnorm Psychol. 2017;126(4):454.

11.   Association AP, others. Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-5®).
American Psychiatric Pub; 2013.

12.   Sullivan PF, Agrawal A, Bulik CM, Andreassen OA, Børglum AD, Breen G, et al.
Psychiatric Genomics: An Update and an Agenda. Am J Psychiatry. 2017 Oct;175(1):15–
27.

13.   Caspi A, Moffitt TE. All for One and One for All: Mental Disorders in One Dimension.
Am J Psychiatry. 2018 Sep;175(9):831–44.

14.   Caspi A, Houts RM, Belsky DW, Goldman-Mellor SJ, Harrington H, Israel S, et al. The p
factor: One general psychopathology factor in the structure of psychiatric disorders? Clin
Psychol Sci. 2014;2(2):119–37.

15.   Demontis D, Walters RK, Martin J, Mattheisen M, Als TD, Agerbo E, et al. Discovery of
376   the first genome-wide significant risk loci for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Nat
377   Genet. 2019;51(1):63–75.

378   16.   Walters RK, Adams MJ, Adkins AE, Aliev F, Bacanu S-A, Batzler A, et al. Trans-
379   ancestral GWAS of alcohol dependence reveals common genetic underpinnings with
380   psychiatric disorders. bioRxiv. 2018 Mar;257311.

381   17.   Robinson EB, St Pourcain B, Anttila V, Kosmicki JA, Bulik-Sullivan B, Grove J, et al.
382   Genetic risk for autism spectrum disorders and neuropsychiatric variation in the general
383   population. Nat Genet. 2016 May;48(5):552–5.

384   18.   Guloksuz S, Van Os J. The slow death of the concept of schizophrenia and the painful
385   birth of the psychosis spectrum. Psychol Med. 2018;48(2):229–44.

386   19.   van Os J, Reininghaus U. Psychosis as a transdiagnostic and extended phenotype in the
387   general population. World Psychiatry. 2016;15(2):118–24.

388   20.   Parnas J, Henriksen MG. Epistemological error and the illusion of phenomenological
389   continuity. World Psychiatry. 2016;15(2):126–7.

390   21.   Tandon R. Conceptualizing psychotic disorders: don't throw the baby out with the
391   bathwater. World Psychiatry. 2016;15(2):133–4.

392   22.   Ruderfer DM, Ripke S, McQuillin A, Boocock J, Stahl EA, Pavlides JMW, et al. Genomic
393   Dissection of Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia, Including 28 Subphenotypes. Cell.
394   2018;173(7):1705–15.

395   23.   Dominguez MDG, Wichers M, Lieb R, Wittchen H-U, van Os J. Evidence that onset of
396   clinical psychosis is an outcome of progressively more persistent subclinical psychotic
397   experiences: an 8-year cohort study. Schizophr Bull. 2009;37(1):84–93.

398   24.   Linscott RJ, Van Os J. An updated and conservative systematic review and meta-analysis
399   of epidemiological evidence on psychotic experiences in children and adults: on the
400   pathway from proneness to persistence to dimensional expression across mental disorders.
401   Psychol Med. 2013;43(6):1133–49.

402   25.   Kendler KS, McGuire M, Gruenberg AM, Walsh D. Schizotypal symptoms and signs in
403   the Roscommon Family Study: Their factor structure and familial relationship with
404   psychotic and affective disorders. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 1995;52(4):296–303.

405   26.   Kendler KS, Gallagher TJ, Abelson JM, Kessler RC. Lifetime prevalence, demographic
406   risk factors, and diagnostic validity of nonaffective psychosis as assessed in a US
407   community sample: the National Comorbidity Survey. Arch Gen Psychiatry.
408   1996;53(11):1022–31.

409   27.   McGrath JJ, Saha S, Al-Hamzawi A, Andrade L, Benjet C, Bromet EJ, et al. The
410   bidirectional associations between psychotic experiences and DSM-IV mental disorders.

Am J Psychiatry. 2016;173(10):997–1006.

28.   Saha S, Scott JG, Varghese D, McGrath JJ. The association between general
psychological distress and delusional-like experiences: a large population-based study.
Schizophr Res. 2011;127(1–3):246–51.

29.   Okbay A, Baselmans BML, De Neve J-E, Turley P, Nivard MG, Fontana MA, et al.
Genetic variants associated with subjective well-being, depressive symptoms, and
neuroticism identified through genome-wide analyses. Nat Genet. 2016;48(6):624–633.

30.   Cai N, Kendler K, Flint J. Minimal phenotyping yields GWAS hits of low specificity for
major depression. bioRxiv. 2018 Oct;440735.

31.   Grotzinger AD, Rhemtulla M, Vlaming R de, Ritchie SJ, Mallard TT, Hill WD, et al.
Genomic SEM Provides Insights into the Multivariate Genetic Architecture of Complex
Traits. bioRxiv. 2018;305029.

32.   Curran PJ, Hussong AM, Cai L, Huang W, Chassin L, Sher KJ, et al. Pooling data from
multiple longitudinal studies: the role of item response theory in integrative data analysis.
Dev Psychol. 2008 Mar;44(2):365–80.

33.   Sheng Y, Wikle CK. Bayesian multidimensional IRT models with a hierarchical structure.
Educ Psychol Meas. 2008;68(3):413–30.

34.   Marchini J, Howie B, Myers S, McVean G, Donnelly P. A new multipoint method for
genome-wide association studies by imputation of genotypes. Nat Genet. 2007
Jul;39(7):906–13.

35.   Winkler TW, Day FR, Croteau-Chonka DC, Wood AR, Locke AE, Mägi R, et al. Quality
control and conduct of genome-wide association meta-analyses. Nat Protoc.
2014;9(5):1192–212.

36.   de Leeuw CA, Mooij JM, Heskes T, Posthuma D. MAGMA: Generalized Gene-Set
Analysis of GWAS Data. PLoS Comput Biol. 2015;

37.   Pardiñas AF, Holmans P, Pocklington AJ, Escott-Price V, Ripke S, Carrera N, et al.
Common schizophrenia alleles are enriched in mutation-intolerant genes and in regions
under strong background selection. Nat Genet. 2018;50(3):381–9.

38.   Stahl E, Breen G, Forstner A, McQuillin A, Ripke S, Cichon S, et al. Genomewide
association study identifies 30 loci associated with bipolar disorder. biorxiv. 2018;173062.

39.   Vilhjálmsson BJ, Jian Yang HKF, Alexander Gusev SL, Stephan Ripke GG, Po-Ru Loh,
Gaurav Bhatia R Do, Tristan Hayeck H-HW, et al. Modeling Linkage Disequilibrium
Increases Accuracy of Polygenic Risk Scores. Am J Hum Genet. 2015;97(4):576–92.

40.   Chang CC, Chow CC, Tellier LCAM, Vattikuti S, Purcell SM, Lee JJ. Second-generation
PLINK: Rising to the challenge of larger and richer datasets. Gigascience. 2015;4(1).

41.   Lee JL, Wedow R, Okbay A, Kong E, Maghzian O, Zacher M, et al. Gene discovery and
polygenic prediction from a 1.1-million-person GWAS of educational attainment. Nat
Genet. 2018;50:1112–21.

42.   Nagel M, Watanabe K, Stringer S, Posthuma D, Sluis S. Item-level analyses reveal genetic
heterogeneity in neuroticism. Nat Commun. 2018;9(1):905.

43.   Hill WD, Hagenaars SP, Marioni RE, Harris SE. Molecular genetic contributions to social
deprivation and household income in UK Biobank (n=112,151). bioRxiv. 2016;

44.   Kessler RC, Chiu WT, Demler O, Walters EE. Prevalence, Severity, and Comorbidity of
Twelve-month DSM-IV Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-
R). Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2005 Jun;62(6):617–27.

45.   Jones HJ, Stergiakouli E, Tansey K, Hubbard LM, Heron J, Cannon M, et al. Phenotypic
Manifestation of Genetic Risk for Schizophrenia During Adolescence in the General
Population. JAMA psychiatry. 2016;73(3):221–8.

46.   Stepniak B, Papiol S, Hammer C, Ramin A, Everts S, Hennig L, et al. Accumulated
environmental risk determining age at schizophrenia onset: a deep phenotyping-based
study. The Lancet Psychiatry. 2014 Nov;1(6):444–53.

47.   Mallard TT, Harden KP, Fromme K. Genetic risk for schizophrenia is associated with
substance use in emerging adulthood: an event-level polygenic prediction model. Psychol
Med. :1–9.

48.   Bush WS, Oetjens MT, Crawford DC. Unravelling the human genome–phenome
relationship using phenome-wide association studies. Nat Rev Genet. 2016
Mar;17(3):129–45.

49.   Krapohl E, Euesden J, Zabaneh D, Pingault J-B, Rimfeld K, von Stumm S, et al.
Phenome-wide analysis of genome-wide polygenic scores. Mol Psychiatry.
2016;(May):1–6.

50.   McCoy TH, Pellegrini AM, Perlis RH. Using phenome-wide association to investigate the
function of a schizophrenia risk locus at SLC39A8. Transl Psychiatry. 2019 Jan;9(1):45.

51.   Martin J, Tilling K, Hubbard L, Stergiakouli E, Thapar A, Davey Smith G, et al.
Association of Genetic Risk for Schizophrenia With Nonparticipation Over Time in a
Population-Based Cohort Study. Am J Epidemiol. 2016 Jun;183(12):1149–58.

52.   Taylor A, Jones H, Sallis H, Smith GD, Lawlor D, Davies N, et al. Exploring the
association of genetic factors with participation in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents
and Children. Int J Epidemiol. 2018 May;dyy060.

53.   Munafò MR, Tilling K, Taylor AE, Evans DM, Davey Smith G. Collider scope: when
selection bias can substantially influence observed associations. Int J Epidemiol. 2018
Feb;47(1):226–35.

54.   Fazel S, Danesh J. Serious mental disorder in 23 000 prisoners: a systematic review of 62
483   surveys. Lancet. 2002 Feb;359(9306):545–50.

484   55.   Lehman AF, Cordray DS. Prevalence of alcohol, drug, and mental disorders among the
485   homeless: one more time. Contemporary Drug Problems. 1993;20(3):355–86.

486   56.   Keyes KM, Westreich D. UK Biobank, big data, and the consequences of non-
487   representativeness. Lancet. 2019 Mar;393(10178):1297.

488   57.   Fry A, Littlejohns TJ, Sudlow C, Doherty N, Adamska L, Sprosen T, et al. Comparison of
489   Sociodemographic and Health-Related Characteristics of UK Biobank Participants With
490   Those of the General Population. Am J Epidemiol. 2017 Nov;186(9):1026–34.

Table 1. Psychiatric GWAS phenotypes included in the present study.

Phenotype	Measurement	Source	Sample Size
Schizophrenia	Dichotomous phenotype. Entirely clinician-rated assessment.	Pardiñas et al., 2018	N = 105,318 (40,675 cases & 64,643 controls)
Bipolar Disorder	Dichotomous phenotype. Entirely clinician-rated assessment.	Stahl et al., 2018	N = 51,710 (20,352 cases & 31,358 controls)
Major Depressive Disorder	Dichotomous phenotype. Combination of clinician- and self-rated assessment.	Wray et al., 2018	N = 480,359 (135,458 cases & 344,901 controls)
Depression	Continuous phenotype. Primarily self-rated assessment.	Okbay et al., 2016	N = 161,460
Irritability	Dichotomous phenotype. Entirely self-rated assessment.	Present study	N = 205,270
Mania	Continuous phenotype. Entirely self-rated assessment.	Present study	N = 208,315
Psychosis	Continuous phenotype. Combination of clinician- and self-rated assessment.	Present study	N = 124,952

498
499 **Figure 1**. Genetic correlations among psychiatric disorders and symptom dimensions. Each triangle plot corresponds to a specific set of

500 comparisons central to the present study (from left to right: disorder – disorder, symptom – symptom, and disorder – symptom).

501 Phenotypes are colored according to psychopathology domain. All genetic correlations are statistically significant and the magnitude of

502 the correlation is indicated by line thickness and darkness.

503
504 **Figure 2**. Final confirmatory factor model from Genomic SEM. Indicator loadings, residual variances, and the genetic correlation
505 between latent factors in the final Genomic SEM model (i.e., Model D; $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self}). Note: SCZ = schizophrenia, BIP = bipolar
506 disorder, MDD = major depressive disorder, PSY = psychosis, MAN = mania, IRR = irritability, DEP = depressive symptoms.
507
508

Figure 3. Association results for $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self}. The top panels (blue) correspond to a Manhattan plot and a quantile-quantile plot for

$p_{clinician}$. The bottom panels (red) correspond to a Manhattan plot and a quantile-quantile plot for p_{self}. In the Manhattan plots, the x-axis

refers to chromosomal position, the y-axis refers to the significance on a $-\log10$ scale, and the horizontal dashed line marks the

threshold for genome-wide significance ($P = 5 \times 10^{-8}$). In the quantile-quantile plots, the x-axis refers to expected P value, while the y-

axis refers to the observed P value.

Figure 4. Follow-up analyses for $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self}. In the leftmost panels, the predictive ability of $p_{clinician}$ and p_{self} polygenic scores in

UKB holdout samples. In the rightmost panels, genetic correlations between p factors and phenotypes related to health, cognition, and

socioeconomic status. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.