


UNIVERSITÉ DE STRASBOURG  
CNRS  
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CEMNIS

Looking at differences rather than commonalities



Reconsidering the Wernicke-Kleist-Leonhard School

Foucher JR  
Neurophysiologie et psychiatrie  
CEMNIS, CHU – Uds – ICube  
Strasbourg – France

The beginning and end of schizophrenia:  
does neuropsychiatry terminate the era?  
Freiburg - Germany  
27-11-2017

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### Roadmap

- Epistemological reminding:  
How medical sciences\* are working?
- Why did psychiatry hit the wall of validity (and why neurology didn't)?
- What options for the next move in endogenous psychosis\*?
- Turning back to natural phenotypes:  
WKL as an illustration of a classical medical approach in (neuro)psychiatry

\* Concerns the natural sciences component of medicine, not the applied sciences one (evidence based medicine)

▼ Not exogenous (secondary) not reactional

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David J. Kupfer  
(1941 - )



### The billion Bucks' question

"Concerns have been raised that researchers' slavish adoption of DSM-IV definitions may have hindered research in the etiology of mental disorders... Reification of DSM-IV entities, to the point that they are considered to be equivalent to **diseases**, is more likely to obscure than to elucidate research findings.

All these limitations in the current diagnostic paradigm suggest that research exclusively focused on refining the DSM-defined syndromes may never be successful in uncovering their underlying etiologies. For that to happen, an as yet unknown **paradigm shift** may need to occur."

Kupfer, D.J. et al. (2002).  
Introduction. In "A Research Agenda for DSM5"  
APA, p. xviii–xix.

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### Questioning the validity of current classifications

**Utility :** For what purpose is it made, to what extent is it adapted?  
Epidemiology, EBM

**Reliability :** Inter-rater agreement, test-retest reproducibility.  
Only requirement for DSM & ICD

**Validity :** To what extent does it reflect the reality of the world (naturalistic / realistic paradigm).



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### Natural sciences tends towards validity

*Adapting the model to nature (reality)*

OBSERVATIONS

MODEL

DECISION

PREDICTIONS

RESULTS

*Virtuous circle of scientific optimization*

Induction, Deduction, Observation, Comparison

Scientific validation is an optimization process that is looking for the best match between simple and predictive causal models to reality

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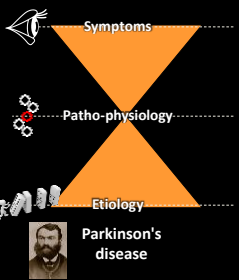
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### Scientific classification = scientific model(s)



- A scientific classification IS a model
  - Validity is how far its accounts for all observations
  - If the theory evolves, the classification evolves too ⇒ Optimization process (impossible if a-theorism: DSM / ICD)
- Medical sciences: diseases classifications are causal models
  - Diseases (naturalistic definition) : pathophysiological causal model of symptoms.
  - A disease is defined either
    - ✓ by its etiology, e.g. Huntington's D.
    - ✓ by its pathophysiology, e.g. Parkinson's D.

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### Scientific medicine starts with a good phenotype

**Phenotype shaving tool**

- What's a good phenotype ? Parsimony principle (Occam's razor)
  1. 1 patient = 1 phenotype (long range stability)
  2. In multiplex family: 1 family = 1 phenotype
  3. 1 core disorder (elementary or fundamental)  
Not being blinded by coarses similarities⇒ Possibly natural
- Clinical phenomenology
  - Clinical presentation(s)
    - ✓ Symptoms: complains, observation
    - ✓ Clinical signs (examination, testing)
  - Course
  - Context
    - ✓ Predisposing factors (age, heredity ...)
    - ✓ Precipitating factors (toxic ...)
    - ✓ Response to different treatments ...

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### Scientific medicine starts with a correlation

**Step 1: consistent correlation (loose control of the putatively causal parameter).**

- Anatomico-clinical correlation (neurodegenerative diseases)
- Imaging-clinical correlation (stroke, tumor ...)
- Biology-clinical correlation (metabolic disorder)
- Immuno-clinical correlation (LED, Sneddon ...)
- Electro-clinical correlation (epilepsies)
- Genetic-Clinical Correlation (Huntington)

⇒ "Biomarker" concept – causal relation  
⇒ External validators, endophenotypes

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### Scientific medicine ultimate validation: Controlled experiments

**Model**

- ETIOLOGY
- ↓
- PATHOPHYSIOLOGY
- ↓
- SYMPTOMS

**Step 2 : Experimental validation (best control of the putative causal parameter)**

- Causing the dysfunction in an animal model mimic the human phenotype.
- Correcting for the dysfunction in patients relieves the symptoms.

**Animal studies**      **Human studies**

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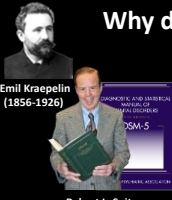
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Emil Kraepelin (1856-1926)

Robert L. Spitzer (1932-2015)

### Why did we hit the wall of validity?

- Non naturalistic approach: Xdisorders, poor familial aggregation, no core symptoms / coarse "syndrome"
- Defined at the symptomatic level
- A-theoretic: nothing to optimize – remains symptomatic
- Fixed / unchangeable: non optimizable



Disorders

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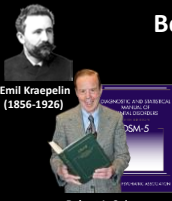
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Emil Kraepelin (1856-1926)

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### Beyond DSM-5 and ICD-10



Thomas Insel (1951 - )




Bruce Cuthbert (1977- )



Carl Wernicke (1848-1905)

Karl Kleist (1879-1960)



Karl Leonhard (1904-1988)

- Normativist: pathological deviance
- Nominalist: exist in my mind as concepts  
⇒ Consensus process
- Optimization criteria:
  - Reliability
  - 1 patient = X disorders

- Normativist: deviation from the norm  
⇒ Empirical / Construct
- Optimization criteria
  - Cross-sectional: 1 patient = X dimensions
- Purpose: drug develop.

- Naturalist: entity existing in nature  
⇒ Empirical process
- Optimization criteria
  - Brain system coherence
  - Longitudinal principle: 1 patient = 1 disorder
  - Familial aggregation principle

Disorders      Dimensions / constructs      Phenotypes

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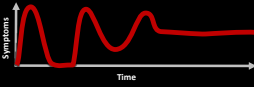
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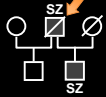
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Symptom



Time



### Focusing on 1 WKL phenotype: periodic catatonia

- Frequent: prevalence 0.1-0.2 % (Europe) ~ 12% of SZ & SA disorders
- ICD/DSM : psychotic and affective episodes (BPD and UD)
- Specific core symptoms: psychomotor disorganization :
  - Co-occurrence of akinesia and hyperkinesia
  - Parakinesia: distortion of expressive motility
- Relapsing-progressive course
- No ontogenic but hereditary etiology (familial aggregation):
  - Mostly with psychosis (26% 1° relative).
  - But also without psychosis (pure residual syndrome) (+ 6%).
  - Autogenic dominant with partial penetrance, ≥ 2 loci, ≥ 4 genes.

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### Comparing periodic catatonia (PC) to cataplasia (C)

Condition	Percentage
C	25%
PC	26%

- Both are frequent: prevalence 0.1-0.2 % (Europe), each ~ 10-15%
- SZ, SA and affective episodes (BPD and UD)
- Relapsing-progressive course
- Specific residual syndrome (thought & language disturbances in C)
- No ontogenic component (pregnancy, birth...)
- Both familial aggregation:
  - Mostly with psychosis (saturated colors)
  - But also without psychosis (pure residual syndrome)
- BUT no crossed liability (same phenotypes within families)

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### Model confrontation experiment

Single diathesis model

WKL multiple diathesis model

- SZ - SA model predictions**
  - Only common differences
    - PC vs CTR = C vs CTR
  - No specific differences between PC and C
    - i.e. C vs CTR = C vs. PC
    - & PC vs CTR = PC vs. C
- Correlation with a biomarker : rCBF (Step 1)**
  - Specific rCBF changes ?
  - With structure-function correspondence ?
- PC & C models predictions**
  - Limited and irrelevant common differences
    - PC vs CTR = C vs CTR
  - Specific & relevant differences, i.e. double dissociation
    - PC vs CTR = PC vs. C
    - & C vs CTR = C vs. PC

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### Methods

Common (conjunction)  
CTR vs. PC & CTR vs. C

Specific (conjunction)  
C vs. CTR & C vs. PC  
PC vs. CTR & PC vs. C

Conjunction  
rCBF1 & rCBF2

Results

- Paired controls (n = 28)
- Patients: double diagnosis of SZ / Sz-Aff & WKL phenotypes :
  - C: Cataplasia (n = 9)
  - PC: Periodic Catatonia (n = 20)
  - CTR (n = 36)
- MRI
  - Anatomical 3D-T1 (MP-RAGE) and FLAIR (exclusion of brain anomalies)
  - ASL (QUIPS II)
    - TE = 9.7 (pure ASL) – Passively looking at movie
    - TE = 21 ms (ASL-BOLD) – Active tasks
- Analysis
  - rCBF conversion, distortion correction, normalization, smoothing
  - Same SPM analysis on the two ASL
  - Only looking at common results (no artifact or task effect).  $p_{unc} < 6.25 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ,  $k > 1 \text{ cm}^3$

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PC

C

SZ

### Results & interpretations

SZ vs. CTR :  $\nabla$  rCBF L striatum & premotor Cx  
Classical antipsychotics effect  
No hypo DLPFCx  $\Rightarrow$  Cycloid psychoses

Double dissociation :

- Periodic catatonia  
Specific  $\nabla$  rCBF L motor & premotor Cx  
Structure function correspondence  
MODEL : Inhibition deficit in SM/PMCx?  
 $\Rightarrow$  TTT: BdZ, CLZ > AP, ECT

Cataphasia  
Specific  $\nabla$  rCBF TPJ bilaterally  
Correlation with TePEO-C ( $r = -0.68$ ,  $p = 0.012$ )

Walter et coll. 2017  
20 SZ  $\pm$   $1 \pm$  BFCRS  
vs. SZ  $\emptyset$   $\pm$  BFCRS

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### Step 1: consistency

#### Left SM & premotor hyperactivity as a biomarker

5 PC

16 RD & 2 MC (sample)

$p < 10^{-4}$ ,  $k > 1$  cm<sup>3</sup>

- Method
  - Single subject analysis
  - 3 MRI with 2 ASL / rCBF measurements
  - Conjunction analysis SnPM + SPM vs 40 CTR
- Results
  - 5 PC patients
  - Never observed in 2 mannered catatonia & 16 resistant depressions

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### Step 2: controlled experiment

#### Correcting left SM & premotor Cx hyper-activity

Foucher et coll. submitted

Walter et coll. 2017

Bern Werner Strik

Actimetry

n = 3

PLC VER1 VER2

Foucher et coll. unpublished

Activity level

n = 1

W0 W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 W6 W7

Walter et coll. unpublished

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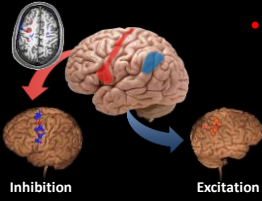
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The WKL school



Inhibition      Excitation

### Conclusions

- Classical scientific medicine
  - Putatively natural phenotypes (core symptoms, life-long, familiarly consistent)
  - Step 1: Looking for a correlated pathological dysfunction, if consistent ⇒ biomarker if putatively causal ⇒ model
  - Step 2: Alleviating symptoms by correcting the pathological dysfunction ⇒ Treatment
- WKL school embraced this naturalist approach (natural sciences)  
≠ DSM (± ICD) & ≠ RDoCs, both are normativist approaches (applied sciences)
- There might well be diseases in the endogenous psychosis spectrum
  - Periodic catatonia could be the first !
  - (Cataphasia the second?)

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University of Würzburg  
1961-2017

**Thank you for your attention**

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