

P. Monhonval¹, C. Widakowich¹, J. Tecco¹

¹Psychiatrie, Psychiatric University Hospital Chêne aux haies/Ambroise Paré, Mons, Belgium

Recent theoretical and empirical work indicates renewed interest in the study of subjective experience in psychopathology (1,2). Phenomenological research shown that disturbance of the basic sense of self may be a core marker of the schizophrenia spectrum (3). This self-disturbance occurs at the tacit, pre-reflective level of selfhood, where it exists a disruption of the sense of ownership of experience, associated with various anomalies of subjective experience. These anomalies include disturbed stream of consciousness, sense of presence, corporeality, self-demarcation and existential reorientation. All of these items are well described in the Examination of Anomalous Self-Experience (EASE) instrument (4). Also, recent researches try to elucidate the neurocognitive underpinnings of this basic self-disturbance (5).

After introducing the classical phenomenological approach about psychosis (Minkowski, Binswanger, Conrad, Tellenbach Blankenburg), we propose to review current theories about altered self-experience (Parnas, Bovet, Sass), and their correlate with neurobiological postulates.

1) Mishara AL, Parnas J, Naudin J. Forging the links between phenomenology, cognitive neuroscience and psychopathology: the emergence of a new discipline. *Curr Opin Psychiatry*.1998; 11:567–573.

2) Moller P Husby R The initial prodrome in schizophrenia: searching for naturalistic core dimensions of experience and behavior. *Schizophr Bull*. 2000; 26: 217-232.

3) Parnas J Handest P Phenomenology of anomalous self-experience in early schizophrenia. *Compr Psychiatry* 2003;44:121-34.

4) Parnas J, Moller P, EASE: Examination of Anomalous Self-Experience. *Psychopathology* 2005; 38:236-258.