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Voices

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PROPOSITIONS

belonging to the thesis

Voices

**A clinical computational psycholinguistic approach
to language and hallucinations in schizophrenia spectrum disorders**

Janna de Boer

1. The interdisciplinary field of psychiatry, linguistics and computational analyses deserves to be named 'clinical computational psycholinguistics'.

2. Acoustic, semantic as well as syntactic aspects of language can be quantified and used as a marker for schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

3. Speech analyses can capture clinically relevant heterogeneity in schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

4. Computational language analyses can be used to detect various symptoms of schizophrenia and they have neurobiological validity.

5. Language disturbances observed in schizophrenia spectrum disorders are related to antipsychotic drug type and dose, and may be aggravated by strong dopamine-blocking antipsychotics.

6. Healthy people who are prone to hallucinate rely more on what they expect to hear in auditory perception than people who never hallucinate.

7. Computational language analyses provide clinically relevant insights into the study of auditory verbal hallucinations.

8. Distress caused by hallucinations is closely tied to negative content of voices, irrespective of people's beliefs about voices.

9. Language disturbances should not be viewed only as a sign of psychosis, they are symptoms that require treatment.

10. Future work in the field of clinical computational psycholinguistics should focus on urgent clinical issues such as early diagnosis, relapse prediction or personalized treatment.

11. The limits of my language mean the limits of my world. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)