Reviewer's report

Title: Attachment and coping in psychosis in relation to spiritual figures
Attachment and religion in psychosis Philippe Huguelet1, M.D. Sylvia Mohr1, Ph.D., Isabelle Rieben2, Ph.D., M.A., Roland Hasler1, Ph.D., Nader Perroud1, M.D., Pierre-Yves Brandt2, Ph.D. 1 University Hospital of Geneva and University of Geneva, Division of Adult Psychiatry, Rue du 31-Decembre 8, 1207 Geneva / Switzerland 2 Lausanne University, Faculty of Theology, BFSH 2, 1015 Lausanne/ Switzerland Pr Philippe Huguelet (corresponding author) University Hospital of Geneva Department of Mental Health and Psychiatry, Division of General Psychiatry Secteur Eaux-Vives Rue du 31 Decembre 8, 1207 Geneva/ Switzerland Tel: +41 22 382 31 03 Fax: +41 22 382 31 05 Philippe.huguelet@hcuge.ch Emails of the authors : Philippe.Huguelet@hcuge.ch Sylvia.Mohr@hcuge.ch isabelle.rieben@hcuge.ch roland.hasler@hcuge.ch nader.perroud@hcuge.ch pierre-yves.brandt@unil.ch;

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Reviewer: ilanit Hasson-Ohayon

Reviewer's report:

Major comments:

1- The paper lacks focus. Is it on Trauma and psychosis, attachment and religion with association with symptoms? Does it test two competitive models of attachment to a spiritual figure? Is it exploratory in nature or are there any specific hypotheses? Is it on coping as mentioned only in the title?

2- The word causality or casual appear more than 10 times in the text. Although the authors mention the problems of inferring causality in their study and in others, I suggest totally avoiding suggesting that attachment style is a risk factor for psychosis. The study with small N, cross-sectional, therefore causality is not an issue. Also, in the literature attachment style, as well as additional variables that express bonding aspects, are perceived as affecting the illness trajectory and process and not to cause the illness.

3- Editing: in relation to lack of focus, the paper is very hard to follow and the writing is sometimes very vague (e.g. conclusion in the abstract – what is the one underlying dimensions? page 11 line 180 the prevalence of attachment, need to have styles followed), In the discussion the paragraphs are too long to follow, and the theme is lost, in the introduction (e.g. page 6) conceptual connection between paragraphs is lacking...

4- The choice to test attachment to a spiritual figure qualitatively with the AAI is not clear. Please base the rationale for this choice. There are available validated instrument that assess attachment to god. In addition, the literature review should include recent studied that discussed attachment to god.

e.g. Rowatt, W., & Kirkpatrick, L. A. (2002). Two dimensions of attachment to


5- Aims and hypotheses should be better formulated. To explore attachment style is a too vague statement.

6- Reliabilities of instrument are missing (alphas for scales and inter-rater with regard to the interview).

7- Discussion: as mentioned before this part is too long and not focused. Should be edited extensively.

Minor comments:
1- How patients were randomly selected? And why the control group is half than the clinical one. Any rationale for this?
2- Page 12 – a table must be numbered and referred to in the text.
3- Page 16 autism better defined as a neurodevelopmental disorder.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests