**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** A Review of Autobiographical Memory Studies on Patients with Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 12 Sep 2019

**Reviewer:** Melissa Alle

**Reviewer's report:**

The present paper reviews previous studies focusing on deficits in the content and characteristics of autobiographical memory in schizophrenia. Although the authors thoroughly reviewed the literature on that question, using several databases, the paper suffers from several limitations. The first and most important one is the lack of novelty. This review is very similar to the recent work conducted by Ricarte and collaborators and published in 2017. To my opinion, authors' arguments to justify this additional review are too weak. The update of the literature is based on very few years (only three), which is probably not enough to move the field to other directions/ towards new conclusions. The authors might consider, instead of a review, to address one or two questions as a response to Ricarte et al., 2017 (short publication, letter to editor…). This review also replicates the findings from a meta-analysis published in 2016 (Berna et al.). Hence, the added-value of the present work is very limited, to my opinion. Second, the research question is not very well motivated in the introduction. The importance of autobiographical memory deficits in schizophrenia should be more clearly emphasized. Why is it so important to consider autobiographical memory impairment in those patients? Why not another cognitive deficit mentioned in the introduction? The motivation really needs to be reinforced in the introduction of the paper. Third, the section regarding future research needs to be improved as well. I think the review would benefit from a strong section on futures perspectives, highlighting how to move the field forward. What is yet to be investigated in patients with schizophrenia autobiographical memory? Which directions should be investigated in the near future (according the current review results)? The review should provide/open strong and concrete new roads for the field.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**

If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**

If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**

If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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