Breakdown in meta-representation has been linked to positive (+) symptoms in Sz which leads to lack of ability to see our own and others intentions. – this lack of awareness can be linked to delusions of persecution and delusions of reference.

Lost ability to infer others feelings/actions etc. however previously had TOM (theory of mind) and lost it so still try to infer others actions/feelings etc. (Frith, 1992)

TOM may be important in development of delusional beliefs (Frith, 1997)

(Corcoran et al., 1997) gave jokes were meaning of intention is needed to be inferred to understand it to those with and without persecutory delusions. It was found that those with persecutory delusions did not understand the jokes as mental state was inferred.

Those with Sz have difficulty filtering out the unnecessary stimuli making their attention not focused and unable to organise their thoughts.

people with Sz are highly distractible and perform poorly when presented with irrelevant stimuli. (Wielgus & Harvey, 1988) – contribution to thought disorder

People with persecutory delusions don’t do well at the emotional stroop test compared to controls – take longer to name threatening words compared to depressive words. (Bentall & Kaney, 1989).

Individuals with persecutory delusions preferably attend to threatening stimuli (Gilleen et al., 2005)

Latent inhibition (pre-exposure to stimuli impairs later association with different stimuli) is disrupted in acute psychosis. – Low levels of latent inhibition can be found in healthy individuals who score highly on schizotypy scale (Gray & Snowden, 2005).

High levels of dopamine or DA agonists (amphetamine) in ventral tegmental causes low latent inhibition (Swerdlow et al., 2003)

if you are unable to used stored information to in new situation stimuli will appear novel.

Source monitoring an aspect of memory which judges the origin of the new information (Johnson & Raye, 2000). – memories are acquired through different sources (internal/external) source monitoring involves the discrimination between internally generated information and externally generated information. Source monitoring linked to (+) symptoms of Sz (Brebion et al., 2002). – poor source monitoring may underpin some delusions

Autonoetic Agnosia – inability to distinguish between internally and externally generated events (Keefe, 1998). – reasoning plays role in determining whether the event happened or not.