



The International Association for Cognitive Semiotics



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### **Decision making in mental illness**

The aim of the presentation is to answer the question to what extent the depressive experience results in difficulties in patients' decision making and generally to explore the specific properties of depressive experience.

We intend to systematize on the basis of available literature (both selected philosophical and phenomenological concepts, theoretical models and the interpretation of empirical research in the field of psychopathology) the features of patients' depressive experience (eg. self-disorders, disembodiment, deformation of common sense, irrational beliefs, the problems of reasoning, lack of insight) and their effectiveness in social functioning, abilities to cope with everyday life and to follow the social rules.

Particular focus of our interest is in the depressive patients' ways of decision-making in comparison to other forms of mental disorders.

We especially investigate disorders of agency/subjectivity and the problems of free will in depressive patients, their insight, reflexivity, depressive deformations of time and disembodiment.

Examined experiences will be localized on the axis: reflexive/habitual action; decision making/implementation; cognitive/emotional components of decision-making; planning/realization; agency/authorship; real/imaginary.

The proposed methodological and theoretical approach refers to the phenomenological method of analysis, and is a part of the narrative/qualitative research tradition (Merleau-Ponty, H. Dreyfus, S. Gallagher, Varela, C. Fuchs, G. Stanghellini, A. Kępiński).

Empirical research (a qualitative research): co-author