

Abstract

The bachelor thesis is dedicated to the neuroscientific understanding of the sense of agency (SoA) as a key component of free will.

The literature review section outlines the initial philosophical ideas and experiments that opened the debate on the topic of free will, followed by placing the concept of SoA within this context.

In the following chapters, approaches to defining SoA, its individual aspects, and the consequences of different operationalizations for study results are presented. Basic approaches to measuring this construct are also described.

The next chapter discusses models and theoretical frameworks explaining SoA in terms of the conditions and processes necessary for its formation. The final chapter of the theoretical section explains the likely abnormalities in SoA that occur in patients with schizophrenia.

The knowledge gained from the literature review section will be accompanied by a research project proposal. This aims to compare the sense of agency between an group of individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia and a control group of healthy individuals.

The benefit of such research can be the supplementation and comprehensive summary of current knowledge about the theory of free will and its neuroanatomical foundations, as well as a starting point for further research in this area.

Key words: sense of agency; free will; neural correlates; schizophrenia