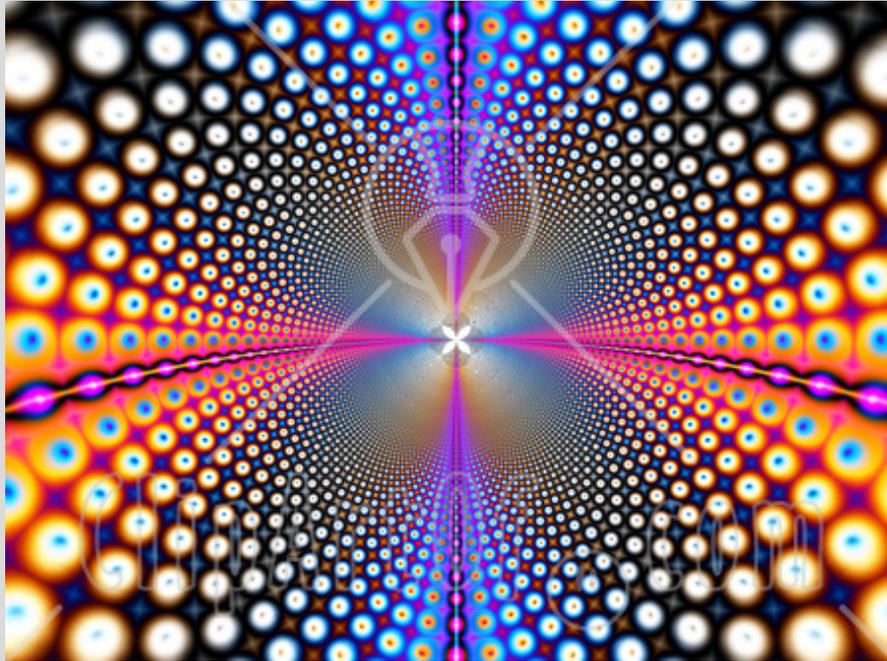


The Mental Status Exam



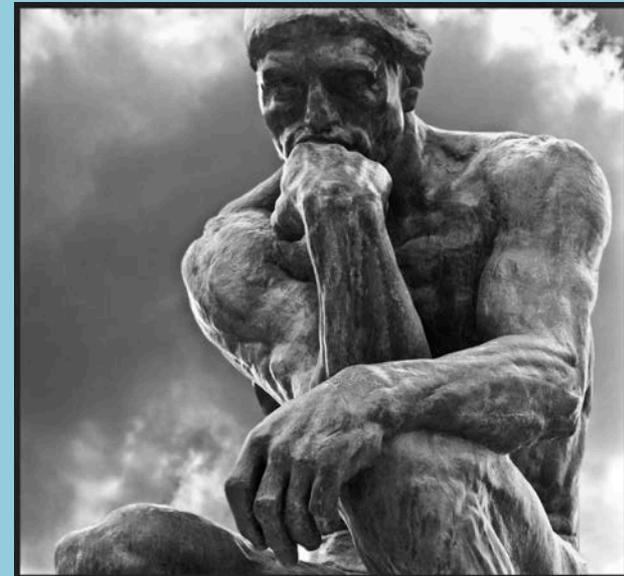
Jonathan Bolton MD

Center for Rural and Community
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Thought

- Process
 - How thoughts are linked together
- Content
 - What the person thinks about

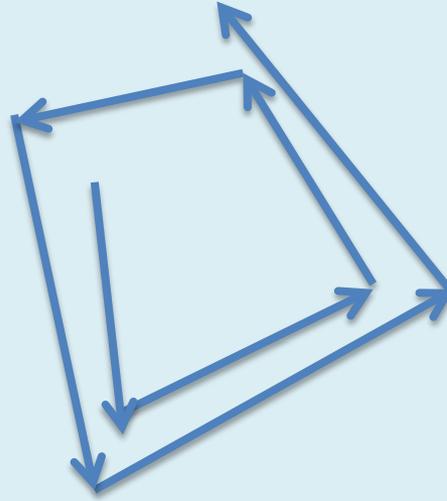


Thought Process

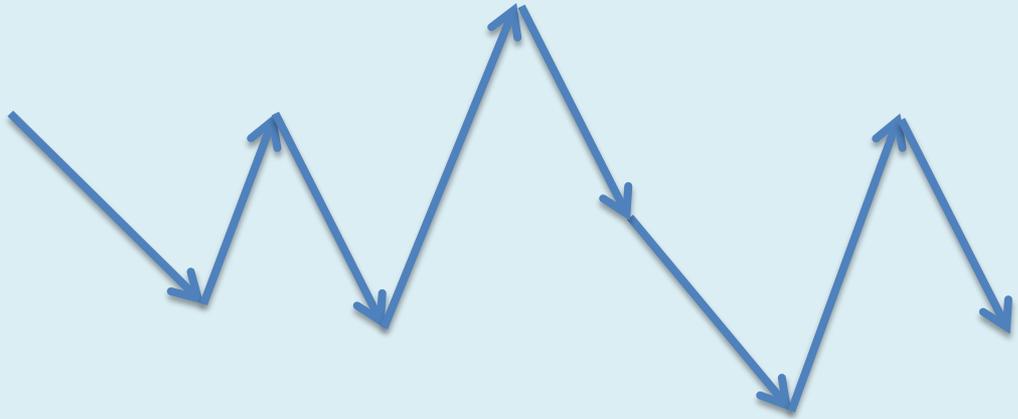


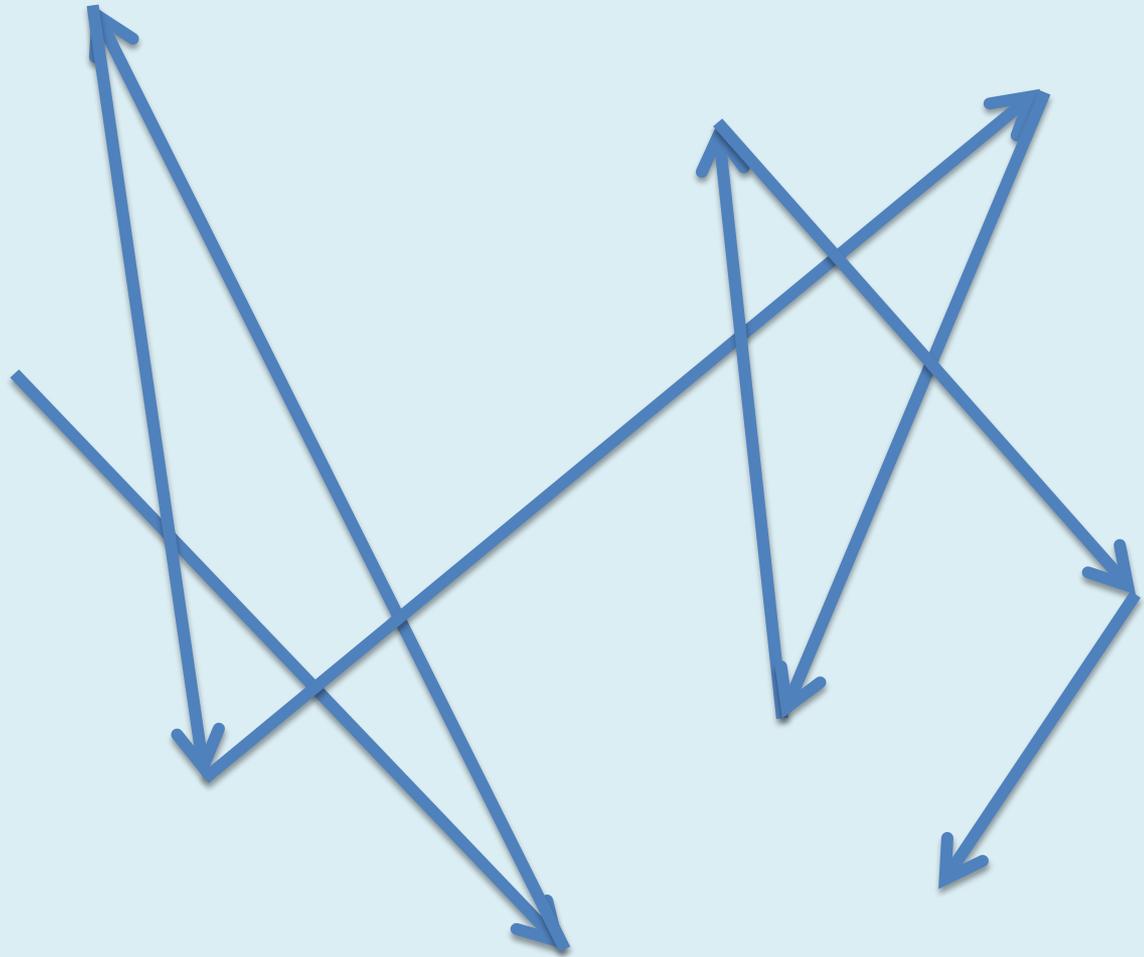
Thought Process

Circumstantial

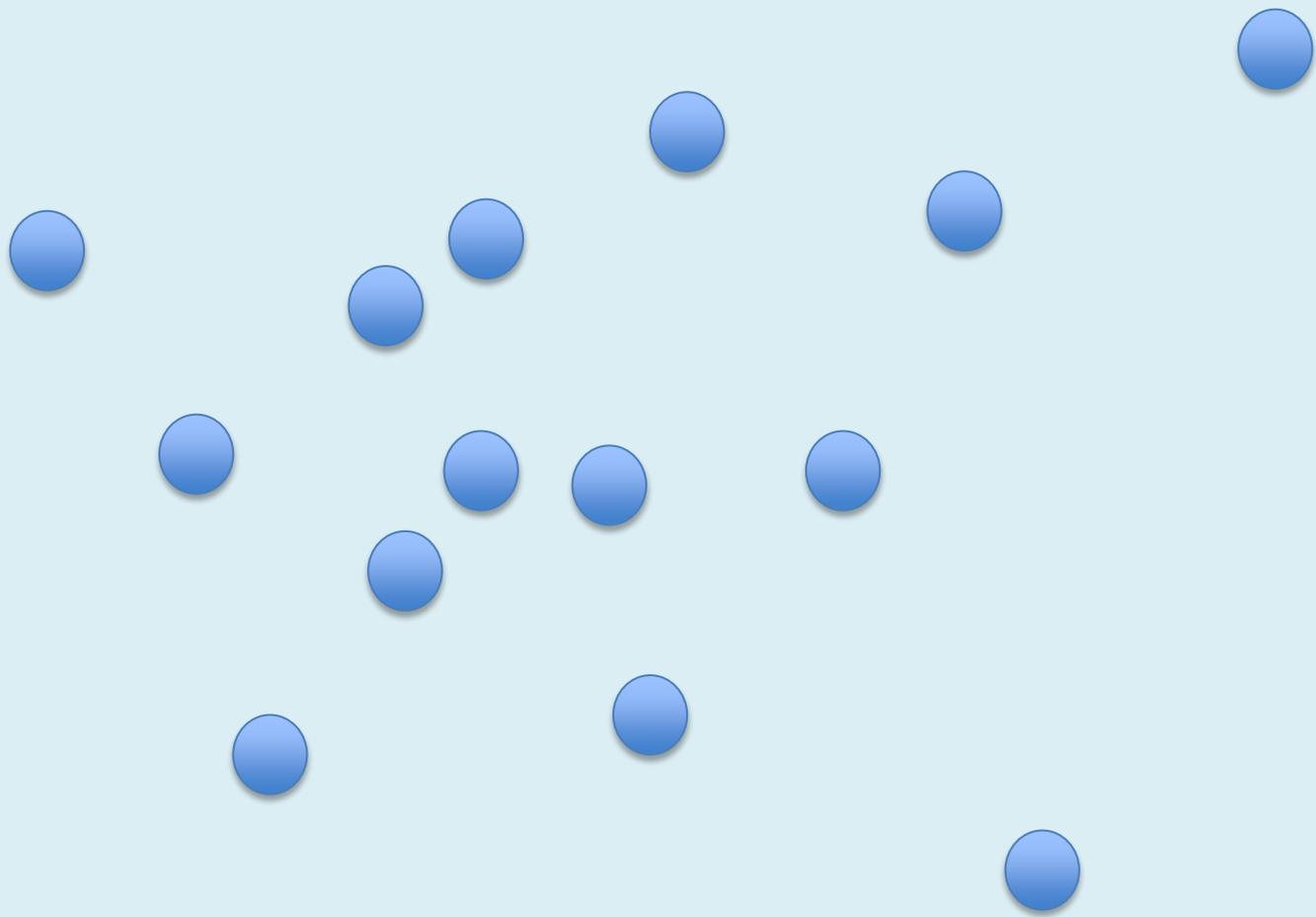


Tangential





Flight of Ideas



‘Word Salad’

Thought Content



Delusions

- Persecutory
- Greatness (Grandiose)
- Nothingness (Nihilistic)
- Paranoid
- Love (Erotomanic)
- Jealousy
- Guilt
- Illness (Hypochondriacal)
- Poverty

Other Thought Content Problems

- Preoccupations
- Over-valued ideas
- Obsessions
- Fears/Phobias

Homicidality/Suicidality

- Gather historical information (e.g., attempts, methods, circumstances, substance abuse, family history)
- Not binary; dimensional
- Assess for ‘motivation’
 - To die
 - To get out of/end an intolerable situation
 - To hurt someone else
 - To hurt self, atone

Perception

- Hallucination vs Illusion
- Which senses?
 - Auditory: sounds, voices (identifiable/not)
 - Visual: geometric/mandala, identifiable, vague
 - Olfactory
 - Sensory
 - Gustatory

Schneiderian First Rank Symptoms (modified)

- Voices
 - Speaking his thoughts out loud
 - Pt is subject of discussion
 - Command
- Delusional percept (ideas of reference)
- Somatic passivity
- Thought
 - Insertion
 - Withdrawal
 - Broadcasting
- “Made”
 - Feelings
 - Impluses
 - Voluntary acts

Other experiences

- Depersonalization
- Derealization
- Déjà vu
- Jamais vu

Insight

- The ability to be self-aware
- To acknowledge illness/problems
- Ask 'Are you ill?'
- Lack of insight associated with psychosis, conversion disorders, addictions
- Anosognosia: extreme lack of insight due to damage to the parietal lobe (right)

Judgment

- Affected by level of insight (and cognitive abilities, intelligence, mood, personality, life circumstances, intoxication, delirium...)
- The process of consideration and formulation regarding a particular issue or situation that can lead to a decision/action.