

EAWE: Examination of Anomalous World Experience

Appendix B

EAWE-BSABS/EASE Comparisonsⁱ

Key:

= indicates complete or near-complete overlap with BS or EASE item

~ indicates partial overlap with BS or EASE item

* indicates items that, though found in schizophrenia, are also thought to be fairly common in the other “functional” psychoses, namely, in severe forms of major depressive, bipolar, or delusional (paranoid) disorder. Possible overlaps with other conditions, including dissociative conditions, are not indicated.

EAWE Item/Subtype	BSABS/EASE Item/Subtype
1	Space and Objects
1.1	<i>Abnormal intensity or persistence of visual perceptions</i>
1.1.1	Increase in intensity of visual perceptions* ~BS C.2.2.1 Hypersensitivities to light or certain optic stimuli
1.1.2	Decrease in intensity of visual perceptions*
1.1.3	Recurrence or prolongation of visual stimuli =BS C.2.3.12 Abnormally long-lasting persistence of optic stimuli
1.2	<i>Blindness or partial blindness</i>
1.2.1	Blurred vision* =BS C.2.1.1 Blurred vision
1.2.2	Partial seeing =BS C.2.1.3 Partial seeing
1.2.3	Transitory blindness =BS C.2.1.2 Transitory blindness
1.3	<i>Disturbances involving veridicality (accuracy) of visual perceptions*</i>
1.3.1	Visual illusions*
1.3.2	Visual hallucinations*
1.3.3	Visual pseudohallucinations* ~BS C.2.2.2 Photopsias
1.4	<i>Visual fragmentation</i>
1.4.1	Object fragmentation
1.4.2	Break-up of a scene
1.4.3	Captivation of attention by isolated details =BS C.2.9 Captivation by details of perception =EASE 1.12.1 Captivation of attention by a detail in the perceptual field
1.5	<i>Disorganization or disturbed object stability</i>
1.5.1	Disorganized object contours =BS C.2.3.10 Disintegration of linearity of (objective) contours of objects
1.5.2	Loss of perceptual stability
1.6	<i>Changes in quality, size, or shape of visual perceptions</i>
1.6.1	Changes in color of visual perceptions =BS C.2.3.4 Changes in color vision
1.6.2	Micropsia/macropsia =BS C.2.3.2 Micropsia, macropsia
1.6.3	Dysmegalopsia =BS C.2.3.11 Dysmegalopsia
1.6.4	Metamorphopsia =BS C.2.3.3 Metamorphopsia
1.6.5	Other distortions =BS C.2.3.8 Double, oblique, slanting and reversed vision
1.7	<i>Disturbances of perceptual distance or object juxtaposition</i>
1.7.1	Objects seem closer or farther away* =BS C.2.3.1 Near- and television
1.7.2	Disturbance of relative spatial relationship (juxtaposition) of objects
1.7.3	General disturbances in estimation of distance =BS C.2.3.9 Disturbances in estimation of distances
1.8	<i>Distorted experiences of space</i>
1.8.1	Diminished perspectival orientation
1.8.2	Loss of topographical orientation
1.8.3	Loss of spatial integrity or structure
1.8.4	Loss of dimensionality
1.8.5	Experience of infinite space
1.8.6	Figure/ground reversal
1.8.7	Affective experience of space*

1.9	<i>Abnormal intensity or persistence of auditory perceptions</i>	
1.9.1	Increases in intensity of auditory perceptions*	~BS C.2.4.1 Hypersensitivity to sound, noise, auditory stimuli in general
1.9.2	Decreases in intensity of auditory perceptions*	~BS C.2.5.1 Changes in perception of intensity (in the sense of decrease) and/or quality of auditory stimuli
1.9.3	Heightened awareness of background auditory sensations	
1.9.4	Recurrence or prolongation of auditory stimuli	=BS C.2.5.2 Maintenance of auditory stimuli
1.10	<i>Disturbances involving veridicality (accuracy) of auditory perceptions*</i>	
1.10.1	Auditory illusions*	
1.10.2	Auditory hallucinations*	
1.10.3	Auditory pseudohallucinations*	~BS C.2.4.2 Acoasms
1.11	<i>Other changes in quality of auditory perceptions</i>	
1.12	<i>Problems localizing sounds</i>	
1.13	<i>Disturbances of other senses*</i>	=BS C.2.6 Disturbances of other sensory qualities
1.13.1	Tactile disturbance*	=BS C.2.6.3 Disturbances of perception of tactile stimuli
1.13.2	Gustatory disturbance*	=BS C.2.6.2 Disturbances of perception of gustatory stimuli
1.13.3	Olfactory disturbance*	=BS C.2.6.1 Disturbances of perception of olfactory stimuli
1.14	<i>Synaesthesia or abnormal concomitant perception*</i>	
1.15	<i>Splitting-off or isolation of sensory perceptions</i>	
1.16	<i>Disturbances in recognizing or identifying an object of perception</i>	=BS C.2.7 Disturbances in the comprehension of the meaning of perceptions
1.17	<i>Loss of boundaries with, or demarcation from, the physical world</i>	=BS B.3.4.1 Experiences of weakened demarcation ~EASE 4.5 Other transitive phenomena
2	Time and Events	
2.1	<i>Time or movements appear to change speed</i>	~BS C.2.12 Slow and quick motion experiences. Time distortion
2.1.1	Time or movements seem speeded up*	
2.1.2	Time or movements seem slowed down*	
2.1.3	Time or movements seem (somehow) both speeded up and slowed down	
2.2	<i>Discrepancy between internal and external time*</i>	~BS C.2.12 Slow and quick motion experiences. Time distortion ~EASE 1.14.1 Disturbance in the subjective experience of time flow
2.2.1	Internal time seems slower than world time*	
2.2.2	Internal time seems faster than world time*	
2.3	<i>Disruption of dynamic organization of time</i>	~EASE 1.14.2 Disturbance in existential time
2.3.1	Time feels as though stopped, static, infinite, disappeared	
2.3.2	Time as disjointed or fragmented	~BS C.2.10 Disturbances of perception of continuity of own acts
2.3.3	Disorientation in time	
2.3.4	Feeling limited to or isolated within the present moment	
2.3.5	Various bizarre experiences of time	

2.4	<i>Disturbed anticipation</i>	
2.4.1	Perpetual anticipation	
2.4.2	Constant surprise due to inability to anticipate future events	
2.4.3	Feeling that “anything could happen”	
2.4.4	Protention (future directedness) collapses	
2.5	<i>Disturbed awareness of the expected future*</i>	
2.5.1	Future seems nonexistent*	
2.5.2	Future seems unimportant or irrelevant*	
2.5.3	Future seems threatening*	
2.5.4	Premonitions*	
2.6	<i>Disturbed experience of memories or of the past</i>	
2.6.1	Past seems cut off*	
2.6.2	Past seems vague or obscure*	
2.6.3	Past disappears or seems nonexistent*	
2.6.4	Past seems accelerated*	
2.6.5	Past seems slower*	
2.6.6	Intrusiveness of the past*	
2.6.7	Erosion of distinction between past and present*	
2.6.8	Past seems disjointed	
3	Other Persons	
3.1	<i>Lack of social understanding or interpersonal attunement (hypoattunement)</i>	~BS A.7.1 Decreased ability to contact others despite desire for it ~EASE 2.12 Loss of common sense/perplexity/lack of natural evidence
3.1.1	Loss of social common sense	
3.1.2	Bodily/proprioceptive loss of attunement	
3.1.3	Specific difficulty understanding nonverbal communication	
3.2	<i>Sense of remoteness from others*</i>	~EASE 2.4.1 Diminished presence: Specified
3.3	<i>Alienated/intellectual strategies for understanding others</i>	
3.3.1	Alienated scrutinizing of others’ behavior	
3.3.2	Algorithmic approach to social understanding/interaction	
3.4	<i>Sense of inferiority, criticism, or mistrust in relation to others*</i>	
3.4.1	Feelings of self-consciousness or self-criticism*	
3.4.2	Feelings of social paranoia or social anxiety*	
3.4.3	Pervasive mistrust of others*	
3.5	<i>Torment or distress due to generalized social insecurity</i>	~BS A.8.2 Decreased ability to tolerate certain per se emotionally neutral social situations of everyday life
3.6	<i>Interference by voices*</i>	
3.7	<i>Disturbance of self-other demarcation</i>	=EASE 4.1 Confusion with the other
3.7.1	Hyperattunement	
3.7.2	Unusual influence over others	
3.7.3	Pathological openness	
3.7.4	Experiences of being controlled	
3.7.5	Merging or fluid psychological boundaries	
3.7.6	Universal merging with others*	
3.7.7	Uncertain personal identity/attitudes*	
3.7.8	Uncertain physical boundaries	~EASE 4.3 Threatening bodily contact
3.7.9	Experience of being imitated	=BS C.1.18 Experience of being imitated

3.8	<i>Difficulties with the gaze</i>	
3.8.1	Intrusiveness of gaze of the other	
3.8.2	Feeling of exposure through one's own eyes	~ EASE 4.5 Other transistivistic phenomena
3.8.3	Intrusiveness of one's own gaze	
3.8.4	Dehumanization of the eyes of others	
3.8.5	Eyes as cosmic portals	
3.8.6	Unspecific uneasiness with the gaze	
3.9	<i>Depersonalization of others</i>	
3.9.1	People seem dead*	
3.9.2	People seem unreal/false/illusory	
3.9.3	People seem mechanical	
3.10	<i>Persons dominated by single characteristic</i>	
3.11	<i>Heightened intensity, aliveness, reality of others*</i>	
3.12	<i>Changes in quality or tone of others' appearance</i>	
3.12.1	People seem familiar in a strange way	
3.12.2	People seem unfamiliar in a strange way	
3.12.3	People seem disguised*	
3.12.4	People seem threatening in a strange way*	
3.12.5	General/unspecified changes in physical appearance of others	=BS C.2.3.5 Changes in the perception of the face and/or body of others
3.13	<i>People seem as if communicating something special or unusual (beyond the obvious)</i>	~BS C.1.17 Immediately corrected tendency to self-reference
3.13.1	Paranoid significance*	
3.13.2	Grandiose significance*	
3.13.3	Metaphysical significance	
3.13.4	Unknown/unstable significance	
3.14	<i>Anomalous behavior/attitudinal responses to others</i>	
3.14.1	Active withdrawal*	
3.14.2	Oppositional/rebellious behavior*	
3.14.3	Social disinhibition*	
3.14.4	Compulsive interpersonal harmony*	
3.14.5	Extreme compliance	
3.14.6	Compulsive clownery/entertainment of others*	
4	Language	
4.1	<i>Basic disruptions of standard verbal comprehension</i>	~BS C.1.6 Disturbances of receptive speech
4.1.1	Meaning/sound dissociation	
4.1.2	Distraction via semantic possibilities	
4.1.3	Distraction by individual words	
4.1.4	Unspecified difficulty understanding	
4.2	<i>Difficulty understanding emotional/expressive aspects of speech*</i>	
4.3	<i>Specific changes in standard feel or meaning of words</i>	~BS C.1.6 Disturbances of receptive speech
4.3.1	Focus on sound or appearance of words or phrases*	
4.3.2	Unconventional semantic determination	
4.3.3	Words seems arbitrary/absurd	
4.3.4	Words or language seems alive, quasi-physical, strangely powerful	
4.3.5	Egocentric linguistic reference	~BS C.1.17 Immediately corrected tendency to self-reference

4.4	<i>Unconventional word choice, grammar, tone, or cryptic discourse</i>	~BS C.1.7 Disturbances of expressive speech ~EASE 1.17 Disturbance of expressive language function
4.4.1	Cryptic, telegraphic, or ungrammatical speech	
4.4.2	Stock words	
4.4.3	Made-up words (neologisms) or unconventional usage	
4.4.4	Mannerisms and stilted speech	
4.5	<i>Disturbed fluency</i>	~BS C.1.7 Disturbances of expressive speech ~EASE 1.17 Disturbance of expressive language function
4.5.1	Unavailability of words	
4.5.2	Unfocused or disorganized thoughts preclude verbal expression	
4.5.3	General discordance between intended expression and the expressed	
4.6	<i>Disturbed relevance</i>	~BS C.1.7 Disturbances of expressive speech
4.6.1	Derailment*	
4.6.2	Tangential responding	
4.7	<i>Disturbance of linguistic engagement or purposefulness</i>	
4.7.1	Aprosody (lack of emotional intonation)*	~BS A.7.2 Disturbance to present oneself in facial expression and gestures
4.7.2	Echolalia	~BS C.3.1 Motor interference. Automaton syndrome
4.7.3	Speech feels autonomous	~BS C.3.1 Motor interference. Automaton syndrome
4.8	<i>Anomalous experience of abstract and concrete</i>	
4.8.1	Difficulty with or dislike of abstract or general concepts	~BS C.1.16 Disturbances of comprehension of symbols (concretism)
4.8.2	Abstract rendered in unusually concrete terminology	~BS C.1.16 Disturbances of comprehension of symbols (concretism)
4.8.3	Specific or concrete meanings rendered in unusually abstract or general terminology	
4.8.4	Hyperabstract or vague discourse	
4.9	<i>Ineffability: Inadequacy of language to describe or express</i>	
4.9.1	Language inadequate to express unusual experiences*	
4.9.2	General feeling of the inadequacy of language	
4.10	<i>Alienation from self-description</i>	
5	Atmosphere	
5.1	<i>Derealization of the world</i>	~BS C.2.11.1 Loss of physiognomization ~EASE 2.5.1 Fluid (global) derealization ~EASE 2.4.2 Diminished presence: Nonspecified
5.1.1	Remoteness or barrier (plate-glass feeling)*	
5.1.2	Decreased intensity or substantiality*	
5.1.3	Deanimation*	
5.1.4	Falseness	=EASE 5.5 'As if' feeling that the experienced world is not truly real...
5.1.5	Loss of enticement quality*	
5.1.6	Static quality, stillness, morbid intellectualism	
5.1.7	Nonspecific/other derealization*	
5.2	<i>Loss of affordances</i>	

5.3	<i>Inanimate things seem alive or intentional*</i>	
5.4	<i>Heightened intensity/hyperrealization*</i>	~BS C.2.11.2 Increase of physionogmization ~EASE 2.5.2 Intrusive derealization
5.5	<i>Déjà vu experiences</i>	=BS C.2.11.3 Déjà -vu and déjà-vécu phenomena
5.6	<i>Jamais vu experiences</i>	
5.7	<i>Perplexity</i>	
5.7.1	Confusion of realms	=BS C.1.15 Disturbances of discrimination between imaginations and perceptions, fantasy and memory contents ~EASE 1.10 Inability to discriminate modalities of intentionality
5.7.2	Unreal interferes	
5.7.3	World experienced as incoherent, disoriented	
5.7.4	Perplexing hyperawareness of tacit dimension	
5.8	<i>Anomalous manner of ascribing or perceiving meaning</i>	
5.8.1	Meaning imposed on object by subject	
5.8.2	Meaning inherent in the object itself	
5.8.3	Proliferation of meanings from the object	
5.9	<i>Anomalous forms of meaning</i>	
5.9.1	Physical or literalist instantiation of abstract meaning	
5.9.2	Anomalous classification	
5.10	<i>Intensified awareness of patterns or trends*</i>	
5.11	<i>Anomalous sense of causal relationships</i>	
5.11.1	Actions or events seem controlled by external force or will	
5.11.2	Actions or events seem predetermined or planned	
5.12	<i>All-inclusive self-consciousness/ontological "paranoia"</i>	
5.13	<i>Diminished ontological independence of world/ subjectivism</i>	
5.13.1	Subjectivism/solipsism	=EASE 5.3 Feeling as if subject's experiential field is only extant reality
5.13.2	Double bookkeeping	
5.13.3	Influencing physical reality	=EASE 5.6 Magical ideas linked to subject's way of experiencing
5.13.4	Pseudomovements of objects/persons	=BS C.2.3.7 Pseudomovements of objects =EASE 3.9 Mimetic experience
5.14	<i>Revelatory or pseudorevelatory (apophanous) mood</i>	
5.14.1	Uncanny particularity	
5.14.2	Self-referentiality	~BS C.1.17 Immediately corrected tendency to self-reference =EASE 5.1 Primary self-reference phenomenon
5.14.2.a	Paranoid significance*	
5.14.2.b	Grandiose significance	
5.14.2.c	Metaphysical significance	
5.14.2.d	Unknown/unstable significance	
5.14.3	Unspecifiable strangeness	
5.15	<i>Quasi-mystical experiences</i>	
5.15.1	Mystic union with the world*	
5.15.2	Mere being	
5.16	<i>Experiences of the end of the world</i>	

5.17	<i>Anomalies of mood or affect</i>	
5.17.1	Emptiness, numbness, indifference, lack of spontaneous response to the world*	~BS A.6.3 Decrease in positive emotional responsiveness towards others and as to certain interests
5.17.2	Feeling of emotional/affective blockage*	
5.17.3	Pervasive, nameless anxiety with fear of annihilation*	=EASE 2.14 Ontological anxiety
5.17.4	Basic irritation, restlessness, anger*	
5.17.5	Detached euphoria	
5.17.6	Despair, demoralization, hopelessness*	~BS A.6.1 Change in mood and emotional responsiveness
5.17.7	Abnormalities of mood constancy*	
5.17.7.a	Mood or emotion is abnormally persistent*	
5.17.7.b	Mood or emotion is abnormally labile*	
5.17.8	Incongruity of mood or emotion	
5.17.8.a	Mood or emotion inappropriate to the current situation	
5.17.8.b	Moods or emotions are mutually contradictory	
6	Existential Orientation	
6.1	<i>Rejection of society or convention</i>	
6.1.1	Disinclination for human society	~BS A.6.4 Decrease in the need for contact with others
6.1.2	Antagonomia	
6.1.3	Idionomia	
6.2	<i>Extreme indifference or openness</i>	
6.2.1	Attitude of indifference, insouciance, lack of concern	
6.2.2	Conceptual freedom/anything goes	
6.3	<i>Pervasive disbelief, skepticism, curiosity re the obvious/taken-for-granted</i>	~EASE 2.12 Loss of common sense/perplexity/lack of natural evidence
6.4	<i>Absolute certitude</i>	
6.5	<i>Feeling of being special or superior</i>	
6.5.1	Feeling of extraordinary insight*	=EASE 5.4 'As if' feelings of extraordinary creative power...
6.5.2	Messianic duty*	
6.5.3	Intellectual/spiritual grandiosity	=EASE 5.8 Solipsistic grandiosity
6.6	<i>Impossible responsibility or guilt*</i>	
6.7	<i>Sense of loss of freedom or individuality</i>	
6.8	<i>Adherence to abstract, intellectualistic, and/or autonomous rules</i>	
6.9	<i>Existential or intellectual change*</i>	=EASE 5.7 Existential or intellectual change
6.10	<i>Feeling of centrality</i>	=EASE 5.2 Feeling of centrality
6.11	<i>Decentering of self relative to universe</i>	

Note: This appendix indicates only complete or substantial overlaps with BSABS/EASE items.

ⁱ Full reference information:

EAW: Sass L, Pienkos E, Škodlar B, Stanghellini G, Fuchs T, Parnas J, Jones N: EAW: Examination of Anomalous World Experience. Psychopathology 2017.

BSABS: Gross G, Huber G, Klosterkötter J, Linz M: Bonn Scale for the Assessment of Basic Symptoms. Aachen, Shaker, 2008.

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