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**Testing the Trower and Chadwick model of paranoia: Is ‘poor-me’ and ‘bad-me’ paranoia acting as a defence?**Charles Marley<sup>a\*</sup>, Jason Jones<sup>b</sup>, Chris Jones<sup>b</sup><sup>a</sup>The University of Edinburgh. Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG, United Kingdom<sup>b</sup>The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom

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**Abstract**

The study tested the predicted differences in phenomenology (self-esteem and depression) and insecurity of the subgroups of paranoia proposed by the Trower and Chadwick (1995) model of paranoia. Thirty-two inpatients experiencing persecutory delusions were assigned to either the *poor me* or *bad me* paranoid group. Questionnaire assessment of depression and self-esteem were conducted. A Dot Probe task measured detection latency (reaction time) to *poor me* words, *bad me* words and neutral words. The *poor me* and *bad me* groups displayed the predicted phenomenological differences. The dot probe task did not support the predicted insecurities of the Trower and Chadwick model, but unexpected significant results for the *poor me* subgroup may offer support for an alternative explanation of paranoia as an unstable phenomenon.

**Key words:** Paranoia, Subgroups, Persecutory Delusions, Depression, Self-Esteem**1. Introduction**

Bentall and co-authors (Bentall and Kaney, 1989; Kaney and Bentall, 1989; Bentall et al., 1991) propose that individuals experiencing paranoid delusions demonstrate an exaggerated self-serving bias which externalises blame for failure onto the outside world, allowing for self-esteem to be maintained (Bentall, 1994; Bentall et al., 1994; Lyon et al., 1994). However, a number of studies have found paranoid individuals

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