

## Abstract

Title of Document:

**A CRITIQUE OF THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF  
SENSE OF AGENCY IN EXPERIMENTAL  
PARADIGMS**

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The Sense of agency (SoA) as conceived in experimental paradigms adheres to “cognitive penetration” and “cognitive phenomenology.” Cognitive penetrability is the assumption that agency states penetrate sensory modalities like time perception – the Intentional binding (IB) hypothesis – and auditory, visual and tactile perceptions – the Sensory attenuation (SA) hypothesis. Cognitive phenomenology, on the other hand, assumes that agency states are perceptual or experiential that are akin to sensory states. I critically examine these operationalizations and argue that the SoA is a judgment effect rather than a perceptual/phenomenal state. My thesis criticizes the experimentally operationalized implicit SoA (in chapter 2), explicit SoA (in chapter 3) and cue-integrated SoA (in chapter 4) by arguing that: (a) There is uncertainty in the SoA experimental

operationalization (making the participants prone to judgment effects); (b) There are inconsistencies and incoherence between different findings and reports in the SoA domain; (c) The SoA reports are influenced by prior as well as online-generated beliefs (under uncertainty); (d) The SoA operationalizations had inaccuracy or approximation standard for measuring perception/experience of agency; (e) Under certainty and accuracy standard (for perception), the SoA (biased or nonveridical) reports might not have occurred at all; and (f) Reported inconsistencies and, the effects of beliefs can be parsimoniously accounted by compositionality nature of judgment. Thus, my thesis concludes that SoA reports are not instances of feelings/perceptions but are judgments.