

READING THE ROOM

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No results reported · conceptual model & study design

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CENTRAL
THESIS

Misclassification can begin inside the clinical encounter: early social-cognitive decline shapes the clinician’s reading and frames Alzheimer’s as a psychiatric disorder.

1 INTRODUCTION

- **ESTABLISHED** Early AD shows affective change — apathy, irritability, emotional lability — before memory loss, and is routinely read as a primary psychiatric disorder.
- **OPEN QUESTION** Whether altered social cognition systematically shapes the clinician’s first diagnostic framing — the encounter itself remains unexamined.

PATIENTS SOCIAL-COGNITIVE CAPACITIES DURING THE CONSULTATION

Emotion recognition
reading facial & vocal affect

Theory of mind
mentalizing · Faux Pas Test

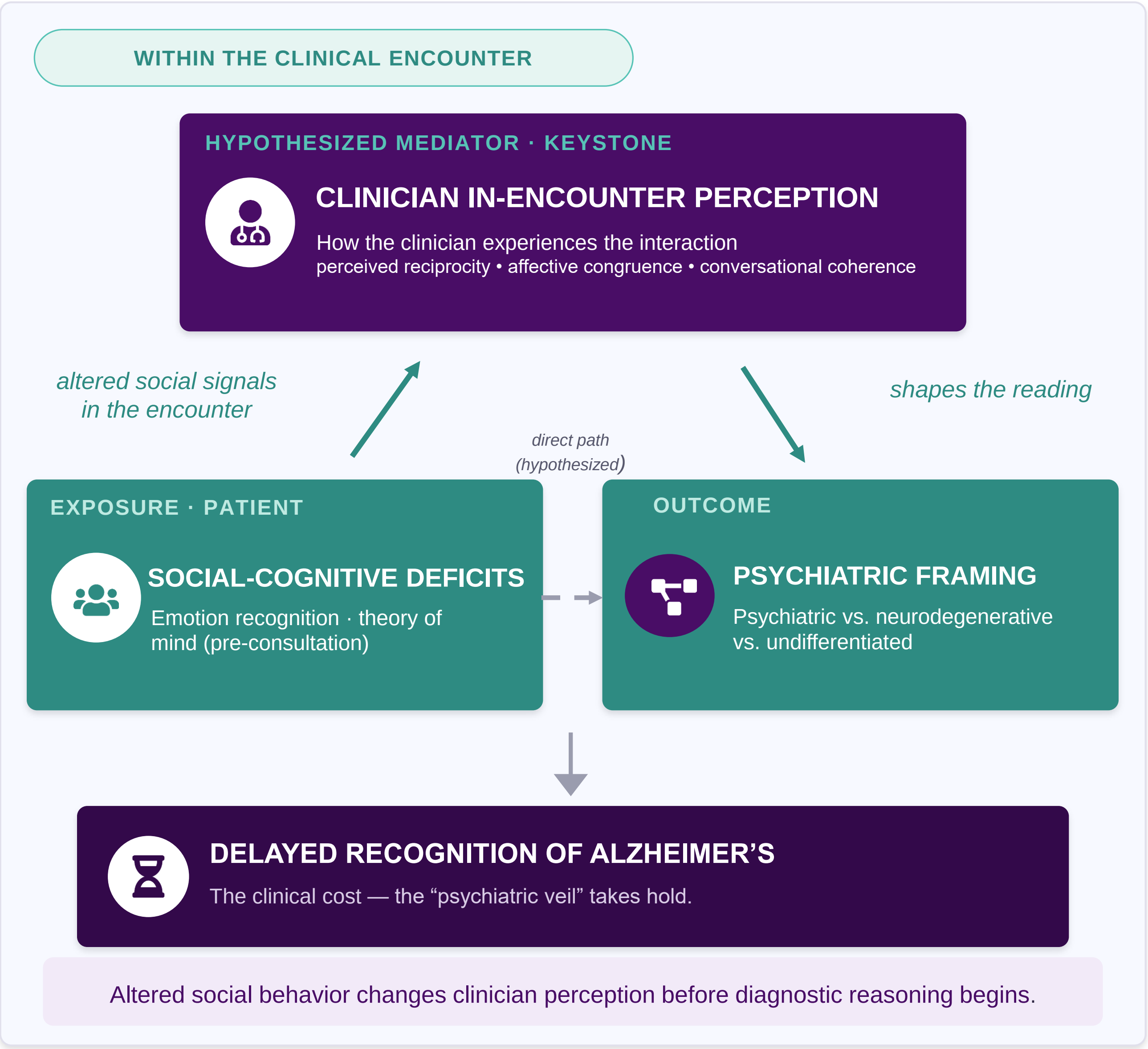
Conversational reciprocity
turn-taking & repair

Affective congruence
affect that matches context

Patient capacities — emotion recognition, theory of mind — are already impaired in MCI ($d \approx 0.6$; Bora & Yener 2017), producing altered signals the clinician then reads and weighs.

2 THE MECHANISM

A proposed pathway from patient behavior to diagnostic framing



3 PROPOSED STUDY DESIGN



4 EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION

- ✓ Introduces clinician–patient interaction as a measurable diagnostic mechanism.
- ✓ Bridges social neuroscience and clinical diagnostic reasoning
- ✓ A measurable, modifiable target for earlier triage

PREDICTIONS · FALSIFIABILITY

stated as hypotheses — study in design, no data collected

IF THE MODEL HOLDS, WE EXPECT

- Psychiatric framing tracks with poorer social cognition — even at comparable MoCA.
- Clinician perception accounts for part of that association.

THE MODEL WOULD BE CHALLENGED IF

- Framing is unrelated to social cognition once MoCA is considered.
- Clinician perception adds nothing beyond the underlying deficit.



SEEKING INPUT & COLLABORATION

Developing Topics — feedback on the design & measures welcome. Scan for protocol & contact.

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Key refs: Bora & Yener 2017 · Ismail et al. 2016 (MBI) · Lyketsos et al. 2002.