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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Classification of social anhedonia using temporal and spatial network features from a social cognition fMRI task

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## Abstract

Previous studies have suggested that the degree of social anhedonia reflects the vulnerability for developing schizophrenia. However, only few studies have investigated how functional network changes are related to social anhedonia. The aim of this fMRI study was to classify subjects according to their degree of social anhedonia using supervised machine learning. More specifically, we extracted both spatial and temporal network features during a social cognition task from 70 subjects, and used support vector machines for classification. Since impairment in social cognition is well established in schizophrenia-spectrum disorders, the subjects performed a comic strip task designed to specifically probe theory of mind (ToM) and empathy processing. Features representing both temporal (time series) and network dynamics were extracted using task activation maps, seed region analysis, independent component analysis (ICA), and a newly developed multi-subject archetypal analysis (MSAA), which here aimed to further bridge aspects of both seed region analysis and decomposition by incorporating a spotlight approach. We found significant classification of subjects with elevated levels of social anhedonia when using the time series extracted using MSAA, indicating that temporal dynamics carry important information for classification of social anhedonia. Interestingly, we found that the same time series yielded the highest classification performance in a task classification of the ToM condition. Finally, the spatial network corresponding to that time series included both prefrontal and temporal-parietal regions as well as insula activity, which previously have been related to schizotypy and the development of schizophrenia.

## KEYWORDS

archetypal analysis, decomposition, functional connectivity, social anhedonia, support vector classification

**Abbreviations:** CSAS, Chapman social anhedonia scale; Emp, empathy; EPI, echo planar imaging; fMRI, functional magnetic resonance imaging; HSA, high social anhedonia; ICA, independent component analysis; IPL, inferior parietal lobule; LSA, low social anhedonia; MCC, Mathews correlation coefficient; mPFC, medial prefrontal cortex; MSAA, multi-subject archetypal analysis; NVR, Nuisance variable regressors; P/ACC, posterior/anterior cingulate cortex; PCon, pooled condition analysis; Phy1/2, physical condition 1 and 2; ROI, region of interest; sMSAA, spotlight MSAA; SPM, statistical parametric mapping; SVC, support vector classification; ToM, theory of mind; TPJ, temporoparietal junction; wbMSAA, whole brain MSAA.

## 1 | INTRODUCTION

In the perspective of schizophrenia as a neurodevelopmental disease, it is very important to study potential early risk groups (Insel, 2010; Lewis & Levitt, 2002; Weinberger, 1987). Schizotypy refers to a set of positive, negative, or disorganized personality traits that are related to

schizophrenia (Ettinger et al., 2015). Individuals with schizotypy are nonclinical subjects, but they have some psychotic-like experiences, ranging from few (low schizotypy) to numerous (high schizotypy), which reflect their vulnerability for developing schizophrenia-spectrum disorders (Blanchard, Collins, Aghevli, Leung, & Cohen, 2011; Kwapil, 1998; Mason, 2015). The importance of studying schizotypy is twofold. Firstly, it has been suggested that early detection and intervention of schizophrenia might yield substantial improvements in treatment outcome, comparable to what has been reported in preventive approaches to cardiac death (Insel, 2010). Secondly, schizotypy studies have shown to increase the understanding of the psychopathology of schizophrenia.

Anhedonia, which is the reduced capability to experience pleasure in normal pleasurable situations, is considered as a negative dimension of schizotypy. High levels of anhedonia have consistently been reported in patients with schizophrenia (Blanchard et al., 2011; Bora, Yucel, & Pantelis, 2009) and ultra-high risk groups (Bora & Pantelis, 2013). Furthermore, longitudinal studies have shown that subjects with a high level of *social* anhedonia (reduced pleasure experience in social contexts) are more likely to develop schizophrenia-spectrum disorders later on, compared to control groups or high scorers on positive schizotypy (measured by perceptual aberration scale and magical ideation scale; Blanchard et al., 2011; Kwapil, 1998) (Gooding, Tallent, & Matts, 2005; Wang et al., 2014). For these reasons, social anhedonia will be the focus in this study.

On the other hand, the importance of social cognition research in understanding psychopathology of schizophrenia has been acknowledged (Green, Horan, & Lee, 2015; Penn, Sanna, & Roberts, 2007). Studies have shown that social cognition is substantially impaired in patients with schizophrenia and early risk groups (Bora & Pantelis, 2013; Fett, Viechtbauer, Dominguez M de, & Krabbendam, 2011), and changes have even been reported in subjects with schizotypy (Blanchard et al., 2011; Morrison, Brown, & Cohen, 2013). Theory of mind (ToM) is often defined as the ability to attribute mental states to ourselves and others, and consists of both a cognitive (centered about processing of knowledge and beliefs) as well as an affective (emotional processing) component (Sebastian et al., 2012; Shamay-Tsoory, Harari, Aharon-Peretz, & Levkovitz, 2010). The affective aspect is very similar to what is often defined as cognitive empathy (Sebastian et al., 2012), and will for simplicity, be referred to as empathy (Emp) in the rest of the article. The abnormalities of ToM or empathy ability has been related to schizotypy (Bora & Pantelis, 2013; Pickup, 2006). In particular, previous studies consistently suggested an association between high negative schizotypy and poor mentalizing ability measured by self-report scales (Bedwell et al., 2014; Henry, Bailey, & Rendell, 2008; Thakkar & Park, 2010; Wang et al., 2013) and behavioral tasks (Pflum & Gooding, 2018; Thakkar & Park, 2010).

Functional imaging studies have correlated the degree of schizotypy and activity in isolated brain regions reviewed in (Ettinger et al., 2015; Nelson, Seal, Pantelis, & Phillips, 2013), however, until now, only relatively few studies have investigated how functional connectivity changes in individuals with schizotypy. Lagioia et al. determined six resting state networks and found that functional connectivity in the visual and

auditory networks were correlated to the degree of schizotypy (Lagioia, Van De Ville, Debbané, Lazeyras, & Eliez, 2010). In terms of social anhedonia, studies found altered connectivity between the striatal seeds and the cingulate cortex as well as the insula during resting state (Wang et al., 2016) and altered functional connectivity of the amygdala during facial emotion processing task (Wang et al., 2018). Although previous studies have looked at correlations between brain activation or connectivity and the degree of schizotypy, actual classification is of great importance to determine if these changes can be used to categorize or even diagnose subjects already in early stages. Machine learning methods have been used in classification of schizophrenia patients from healthy control using functional imaging data (reviewed in (Madsen, Krohne, Cai, Wang, & Chan, 2018)). So far there are a few studies that have investigated the classification performance of individuals with schizotypy based on brain activation during task-based fMRI using machine learning methods (Modinos et al., 2012; Shinkareva, Ombao, Sutton, Mohanty, & Miller, 2006), but both studies only focused on the positive dimension of schizotypy instead of negative schizotypy.

*The aim of our study* was to investigate which features extracted from functional networks during a social cognition task were sufficient to classify subjects according to their degree of social anhedonia using supervised machine learning. To this end, we extracted brain network features using both standard activation maps and traditional seed region analysis (Biswal, Yetkin, Haughton, & Hyde, 1995; Cole, Smith, & Beckmann, 2010), but also decomposition methods based on independent component analysis (ICA; Beckmann & Smith, 2004; Calhoun, Adali, Pearlson, & Pekar, 2001) and the multi-subject archetypal analysis (MSAA) described in (Hinrich et al., 2016). Seed based analysis procedures extract features from defined seed regions, whereas ICA uses unsupervised learning to decompose the data into latent maximally independent spatial components. Each of these components can be thought of as representing a functional brain network. MSAA can be seen as seed region-based analysis where the seeds are automatically defined based on unsupervised learning. The features used for the classification, and the relation between the approaches are illustrated in Figure 1.

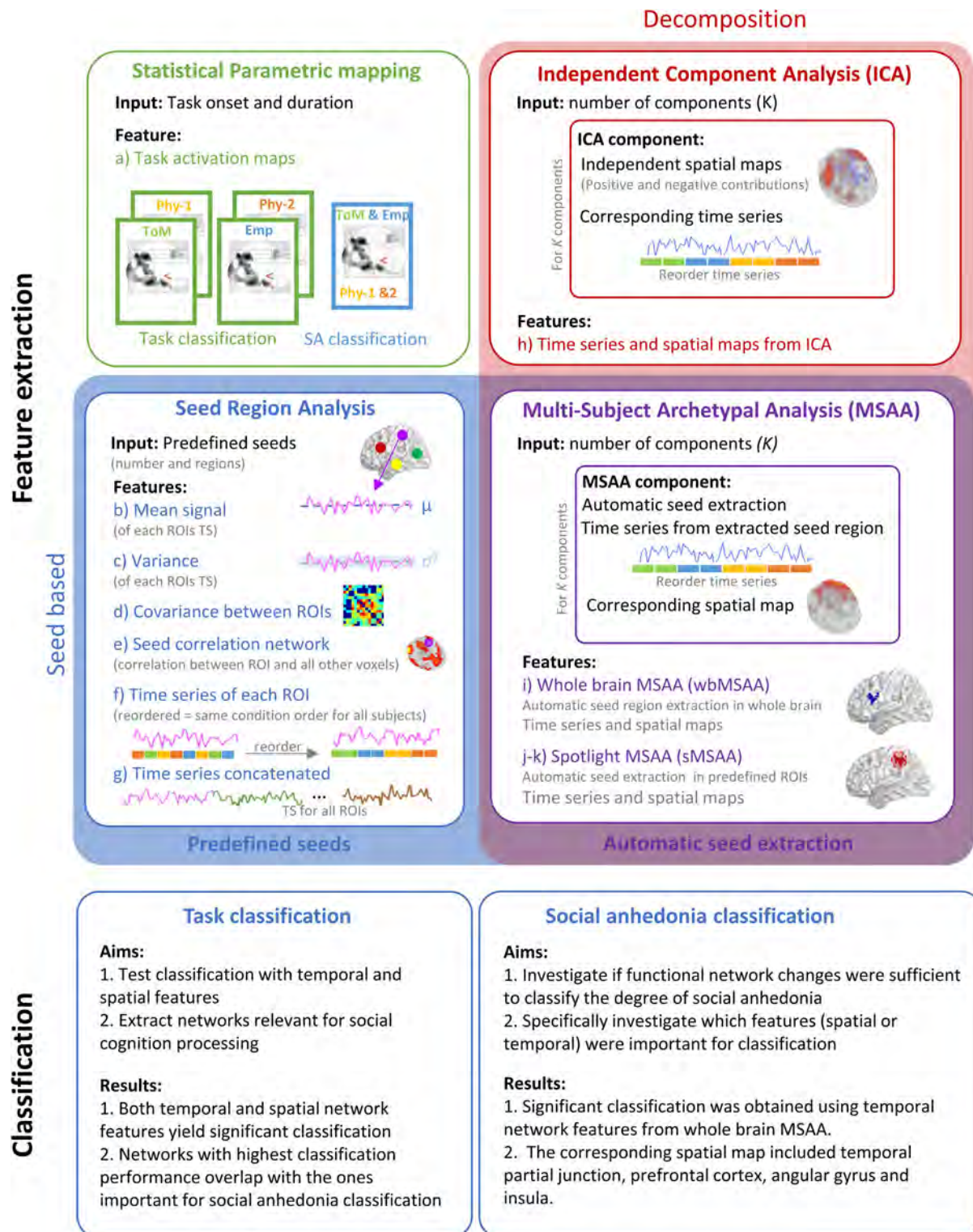
The use of different methods helped us exploring the separate importance of spatial and temporal network features.

*Our second aim* was to specifically investigate which features were important for classification. We investigated time series extracted from either specific brain regions or from networks, and hypothesized that the features showing significant classification of subjects with high social anhedonia would entail brain regions previously associated with schizotypy and the development of schizophrenia. Such regions include as prefrontal cortex, temporal-parietal regions, and insula (Chan, Di, McAlonan, & Gong, 2011; Kühn, Schubert, & Gallinat, 2012; Takahashi, Wood, Yung, Velakoulis, & Pantelis, 2009).

## 2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 | Participants

This study included 76 college students from Guangzhou Medical University (37/39 male/female) with age between 17 and 21 years



**FIGURE 1** Illustration of the feature extraction methods and aims of classification. We roughly divide the feature extraction methods considered into statistical parametric mapping, unsupervised decomposition, and seed region analysis. Here the letters a–k refers to the results of individual analyses as displayed in Table 1. (a) Refers to spatial maps extracted from statistical parametric mapping and classification approach (b,c) are based on static measures from seed based analysis, (d,e) are expressions of functional connectivity within and between the seeds and (f,g) reflect temporal dynamics of seed based analysis. In analyses (f–k) the time series are rearranged such that the order of the conditions is consistent across subjects, this was necessary as the order of the tasks were randomized across participants. In approach (h) time series and spatial maps obtain from ICA are considered, and approaches (i–k) are based on archetypal analysis which can be seen as seed based analysis with automatical extraction of seeds, merging aspects of ICA and seed region analysis. For approaches (e,f and h–k) classification was performed for each ROI/component separately, and thus multiple comparisons correction was used to assess the significance of the results [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

( $\mu = 19.3$  years,  $\sigma = 0.9$  years). The subjects were chosen such that they covered a continuous range of schizotypy and none had a history of drug abuse, or psychiatric disorders. The Chapman social anhedonia scale (CSAS) was used to assess the inability to experience pleasure from social interactions (Chan et al., 2015; Chapman, Chapman, Kwapil, Eckblad, & Zinser, 1994). The CSAS consists of 40 items (e.g., "Just being with friends can make me feel really good"; "Making new friends isn't worth the energy it takes") and higher score indicated more severity of anhedonia. The good reliability and validity of the CSAS has been proved in Chinese context (Chan et al., 2015). The internal consistency coefficient was 0.84 in our sample. The mean and standard deviation of all four Chapman scales and the Becks Depression Inventory can be found in Data S1–Table S2. All subjects were right-handed and a radiologist screened all scans to exclude subjects with any incidental clinical abnormalities. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Psychology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In a previous analysis, the same dataset showed specific correlation between the degree of social anhedonia and the mean activity in; the middle temporal gyrus, the temporoparietal junction and the medial prefrontal gyrus. (Wang et al., 2015). In contrast, this study investigated if the measured changes were sufficient for actual classification of subject with high and low social anhedonia (HSA/LSA) using support vector machines.

Subjects were defined in the HSA group if their CSAS score was more than one standard deviation above the mean (based on a large independent dataset including 887 subjects (Chan et al., 2012)). This separation threshold was relatively low, but comparable with what previously has been used in the literature (Wang et al., 2016). Furthermore, even when using this relatively low separation boundary, the dataset was unbalanced (HSA = 14/LSA = 56 subjects). As it will be discussed more carefully in Sections 2.9 and 3.4 this complicated the classification procedure.

## 2.2 | Functional imaging task

A Chinese adaption of the visual comic strip task developed by Völlm et al. was presented in a block design (Völlm et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2015). The task included four different conditions namely ToM, empathy, and two corresponding control conditions; "physical causality with one character" (Phy1) and "physical causality with two characters" (Phy2). Whereas the ToM and empathy condition were designed to probe the corresponding social cognition processing, the physical conditions were designed to look as similar to the social cognition conditions as possible. Hence, Phy1 included comic strips with only one character, whereas Phy2 included two interacting characters. Each condition was presented twice, resulting in a total of eight blocks, with each block containing five trials of comic strips belonging to the same condition. When the condition was presented the second time, a new set of comic strips were used, hence each comic strip was only seen once by each subject. In each trial, three pictures depicting a short story were displayed in the upper half of the screen for 6 s. Afterward, two pictures appeared in the lower half of the screen for

another 6 s. During the second 6-s period, participants were asked to choose one of the two pictures from the lower half of the screen as the appropriate ending to the story by pressing the corresponding button with their right hand. For the ToM trials, the original cartoons from the "Attribution of intention" (Brunet, Sarfati, Hardy-Baylé, & Decety, 2000) condition was used and the question: "What will the main character do next?" was asked. For the empathy condition, scenarios with emotional states attribution was showed and the question "What will make the main character feel better?" was asked. The total duration of the whole task was 8 min and 48 s. To control for effects of practice and fatigue the blocks were randomized across subjects. More details, as well as examples on the comic strip task, can be found in (Völlm et al., 2006), who developed the task.

## 2.3 | Image acquisition and preprocessing

All scans were acquired on a 3T Siemens Verio MR scanner at Guangzhou First People's Hospital in 2012, using a T2\* weighted gradient echo based echo planar imaging (EPI) sequence with echo time = 28 ms, repetition time = 2,000 ms and flip angle = 90°. 264 whole brain volumes were acquired with a slice thickness of 4 mm, matrix size 64 × 64 (32 slices in coronal plane), field of view = 210 × 210 mm, voxel size = 3.3 × 3.3 × 4 mm, and bandwidth = 2,232 Hz/px.

The images were preprocessed using Statistical Parameter Mapping (SPM) version 12 revision 6685. The eight first volumes of the scans were removed to ensure T1 equilibrium, and slice-timing correction was performed to correct for the descending slice order with the middle slice as reference. The EPI images were normalized to the EPI template (ICBM-152) and the images were re-sliced to 3 × 3 × 3 mm. As this study focused on functional connectivity modeling additional preprocessing steps were included, since artifacts can lead to spurious connections (Power, Barnes, Snyder, Schlaggar, & Petersen, 2012). First despiking was performed to remove transient phenomena without scrubbing (Patel et al., 2014) using a Daubechies 4 mother wavelet. Then additional nuisance regressors were included in a multiple linear regression and the effect of them was removed from the data. These included; (a) mean signal and second order detrending (b) nuisance variable regressors (NVRs), (c) spike percentage from despiking, and (d) explicit modeling of specific time frames based on the DVARS and frame wise displacement criteria as described in (Patel et al., 2014; Power et al., 2012), using a threshold of 1% and 1 mm, respectively. NVRs were used to remove both *residual motion* (24-parameter Volterra expansion model (Friston, Williams, Howard, & Frackowiak, 1996) based on the six head motion parameters estimated during realignment) and *physiological noise* where the mean signals from nonneuronal brain regions was extracted. Nonneuronal tissue included white matter, which was segmented using the SPM12 tissue probability map with a threshold of 0.5, cerebrospinal fluid in the lateral ventricles according to the HarvardOxford atlas (Desikan et al., 2006). To reduce the influence of partial volume effect with gray matter, the white matter mask was eroded by two voxels. Finally, the images were smoothed using an isotropic Gaussian 8 mm full width at half maximum filter.

## 2.4 | Classification using support vector classification

To classify subject into high and low social anhedonia, as well as for the task classification, we used binary support vector machines to perform supervised classification (Cortes & Vapnik, 1995). The goal of support vector classification (SVC) is to identify a function that discriminates the labels (e.g., high or low social anhedonia) in a training dataset, such that it is possible to use this function to classify the labels of a test dataset. In principle, it is possible to apply SVC directly to the (preprocessed) fMRI images. However, due to the very high dimensionality of fMRI images in relation to the number of subjects, perfect classification in the training dataset is trivial but with poor generalization to the test data due to overfitting (see Madsen et al. for a more thorough description of SVC for fMRI data (Madsen et al., 2018)). We therefore applied SVC on 11 spatial and temporal features (analysis a-k listed in Table 1), which were extracted from the fMRI data to capture the network changes of interest.

In short, one feature included the task specific activation maps determined by a SPM analysis (Section 2.5), six features resulted from a seed region analysis (Section 2.6), and four came from the decomposition methods (Section 2.7). For some of the seed region analysis and decomposition methods, we extracted both time series and spatial maps for each seed region/component respectively (analysis e,f and h-k), and classification was then performed on each extracted feature respectively. Table 1 lists the classification performances of the features yielding the highest classification performance, and maximum permutation statistics was therefore used to correct for multiple comparisons between the components as described in Section 2.9.

For classification, we used the SVC-C implementation from the LIBSVM (Chang & Lin, 2011) library with a linear kernel. We used nested cross validation to determine the soft margin penalty parameter, and to evaluate the classification performance. For task classification, the cross validation scheme was based on grouped stratified cross validation where each subject was considered a group. In the inner loop, the optimal soft margin penalty parameter (C-parameter) was determined in a logarithmic grid containing 11 values  $C \in [2^{-5}, 2^{-3}, \dots, 2^{15}]$  by 10-fold cross validation, and an unbiased estimate of the classification accuracy was obtained in another outer 10-fold cross validation loop.

For HSA classification, a similar scheme was followed but without grouping as there was only one sample per subject in this case. Furthermore, the C-parameter was adjusted for each class to counteract the class imbalance (Chang & Lin, 2011). The inner and outer loops were set to reserve exactly one sample of the least common class (HSA) resulting in 13- and 14-fold cross validation, this ensured that stratification across splits was achievable while preserving sufficient data for training.

## 2.5 | Statistical parametric mapping

To determine task specific activity maps for all four task conditions (ToM, Emp, Phy1, and Phy2), we ran a standard SPM analysis, performing a parametric statistical test for each voxel separately. The

significance level was  $\alpha_{\text{RFT}} \leq 0.05$ , where random field theory was used to correct for multiple comparisons. The activation maps were later used as features (classification approach [a]) for classification. Since the activation maps were constructed based on information about task onset and duration, we expected that they would obtain a high performance for classifying the tasks conditions. However, for the social anhedonia classification, which was not directly related to the presented task, the static nature of this feature extraction step might not identify information useful for classification. For the task classification, we used one task activation map for each social construct, that is, the ToM-Phy1 condition, and empathy-Phy2 condition, respectively. For the HSA classification, we used one single contrast map, reflecting the pooled effect of ToM, and empathy in comparison to the physical control conditions, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Furthermore, we used SPM to perform a pooled condition analysis (PCon) identifying the pooled effect of the social cognition tasks (ToM and Emp) compared to the control conditions. This was used as input for the spotlight MSA as described in Section 2.7.

## 2.6 | Seed region analysis

Seed region analysis is a very intuitive way to investigate the brain by determining the activity in predefined regions of interest (ROIs). In this study, six different methods (approach b-g) were used to investigate the ROI specific activity, which later were used for classification. These included; approach (b): the mean activity and (c) variance within each ROI, (d) the covariance between all  $N$  ROIs (calculated pairwise), (e) the correlation between the time series of each ROI with all voxels in the brain (classical seed based analysis) resulting in a connectivity map for each seed, (f) the extracted time series of each ROI separately, and (g) the time series of all ROIs concatenated. All of these are illustrated in Figure 1, and enabled us to study the importance of temporal dynamics (approach (f) and (g)), network coupling (approach (d) and (e)), and static features separately.

The time series of each ROI were extracted as the first eigenvariate, which reflects the most consistent source across all included voxels. Compared to using the average across the ROI, this can be an advantage if there are multiple sources in the given ROI (Poldrack & Gorgolewski, 2014). When using the time series as feature for classification, they were rearranged (by simple temporal reordering) such that they reflect the same structure (ToM, Emp, Phy1, and Phy2) for all subjects, despite that the order of the conditions were randomized across subjects. In approach (e) the correlation between the time series of the ROIs, and that of all other voxels in the brain, was determined using Pearson's correlation coefficient, followed by conversion to Z-score through the Fisher Z-transform (Fisher & Fisher, 1915).

In approach (e) and (f) classification was performed independently for each ROI, highlighting the importance of multiple comparisons correction as described more carefully in Section 2.9.

**TABLE 1** Classification performance of both task and HSA

Description of classification feature			Task classification accuracy (%; <i>p</i> value)		HSA vs. LSA classification MCC ( <i>p</i> -value)	
			ToM--Phy1	Emp--Phy2		
<i>Seed region analysis features</i>						
Static measures	(a) Task activation maps	Task specific activation maps determined using SPM	84% <i>p</i> = .001 1 × V	81% <i>p</i> = .001 1 × V	0.13 <i>p</i> = .199 1 × V	
	(b) Mean activity	Average activity of each ROI	41% <i>p</i> = .801 1 × K	56% <i>p</i> = .115 1 × K	-- (†)	
	(c) Variance	Variance within each ROI	58% <i>p</i> = .070 1 × K	58% <i>p</i> = .091 1 × K	-0.02 <i>p</i> = .569 1 × K	
Network coupling	(d) Covariance (network coupling)	Covariance of the time series of ROIs	60% <i>p</i> = .039 1 × (K <sup>2</sup> +K)/2	60% <i>p</i> = .037 1 × (K <sup>2</sup> +K)/2	0.43 <i>p</i> = .005 1 × (K <sup>2</sup> +K)/2	
	(e) Seed based network	Correlation between time series of a ROI and all voxels in the brain	73% <i>p</i> = .001 K × V	73% <i>p</i> = .001 K × V	0.19 <i>p</i> = .897 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .125 K × V	
Time series	(f) Time series (ROI specific)	Time series of each ROI separately	59% <i>p</i> = .666 K × T <sub>1</sub>	61% <i>p</i> = .393 K × T <sub>1</sub>	0.35 <i>p</i> = .189 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .007 K × T <sub>2</sub>	
	(g) Time series (concatenated)	Time series of each ROI, concatenated	63% <i>p</i> = .010 1 × KT <sub>1</sub>	68% <i>p</i> = .001 1 × KT <sub>1</sub>	-0.15 <i>p</i> = .937 1 × KT <sub>2</sub>	
<i>Decomposition features</i>						
			Feature type			
			TS	TS	SM	
(h) ICA	Time series and spatial maps from ICA		73% <i>p</i> = .001 K × T <sub>1</sub>	79% <i>p</i> = .001 K × T <sub>1</sub>	0.45 <i>p</i> = .072 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .005 K × T <sub>2</sub>	0.24 <i>p</i> = .912 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .093 K × V
(i) wbMSAA	Time series and spatial maps from wbMSAA		74% <i>p</i> = .001 K × T <sub>1</sub>	69% <i>p</i> = .002 K × T <sub>1</sub>	0.56 <i>p</i> = .008 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .002 K × T <sub>2</sub>	0.42 <i>p</i> = .097 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .006 K × V
(j) sMSAA <sub>Lit</sub>	Time series and spatial maps from spotlight MSAA (using literature coordinates)		67% <i>p</i> = .020 K × T <sub>1</sub>	73% <i>p</i> = .001 K × T <sub>1</sub>	0.49 <i>p</i> = .032 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .003 K × T <sub>2</sub>	0.25 <i>p</i> = .744 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .059 K × V
(k) sMSAA <sub>PCon</sub>	Time series and spatial maps from spotlight MSAA (using PCon coordinates)		-- (*)	--(*)	0.31 <i>p</i> = .463 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .030 K × T <sub>2</sub>	0.25 <i>p</i> = .732 <i>p</i> <sub>UC</sub> = .066 K × V

Note: For each performed analysis, this table yields a short explanation of the input feature and classification performance measured in accuracy (task classification) or Mathews correlation coefficient, MCC (HSA classification). For the HSA classification, both time series (TS) and spatial maps (SM) were used as features for the decomposition methods. For seed region analysis features e–f and decomposition methods (h–j) the table lists the classification performance of the component yielding the highest classification performance. The *p*-value was nonparametrically estimated with random permutation testing and maximum permutation statistics was used to correct for multiple comparisons when necessary. The number of comparisons × feature dimensionality are stated for each of the classification models, where the size of the voxel dimension is  $V = 60,704$ ,  $T_1 = 60$  (time points for each condition),  $T_2 = 264$  (total number of time points), and  $K = 25$  (number of components or ROIs). The uncorrected *p*-value (*p*<sub>UC</sub>) was also based on random permutation and is stated for some HSA classifications. (†) HSA was not classified as the overall mean per subject was subtracted during preprocessing. (\*) task classification was not calculated for the sMSAA<sub>PCon</sub> analysis, since this result would be biased.

Abbreviations: Emp, empathy; HSA, moderately high social anhedonia; LSA, low social anhedonia; MCC, Mathews correlation coefficient; ToM, theory of mind.

## 2.7 | Decomposition methods

One of the most frequently used decomposition methods in neuroscience is the ICA, which determines a predefined numbers of maximally independent sources (McKeown et al., 1998). For fMRI data, these sources represent spatial networks, where all included regions have similar time series. For multi-subject analysis, common spatial components can be obtained by concatenating subject data in time (Calhoun, Adali, & Hansen, 2003). More specifically, ICA seeks to identify latent sources in the data from multiple mixed measurements via the per subject linear mixing model

$$X_i = A_i S_i + E_i,$$

where  $X_i \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times V}$  is the data matrix measured at  $T$  timepoints and across  $V$  voxels for the  $i$ 'th subject,  $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times K}$  contains  $K$  source time series as columns,  $S_i \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times V}$  is comprised by the  $K$  spatial components as rows, and  $E_i \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times V}$  is a residual error term. While the expression above enforces no coupling across subjects, such dependence is usually accomplished by enforcing dependence or equality of  $S_i$  across subjects, which we will consider later. Since minimizing the residual leads to rotational ambiguity and thereby nonunique solutions, additional assumptions, or constraints are typically imposed on either the time series or spatial components or both. In spatial ICA, this typically amounts to assuming a non-Gaussian source distribution upon the spatial components.

MSAA is another data driven approach, which bridges aspects of seed analysis and decomposition (Hinrich et al., 2016) (Cutler & Breiman, 1994; Mørup & Hansen, 2012). MSAA is a latent variable model, similar to ICA, but is constrained to have latent factors that reflect representative points in the data, termed "archetypes." For

fMRI data, the archetypes are a set of representative time-series, which have a corresponding set of spatial networks. Whereas ICA represents the fMRI data by a linear mixture of maximally independent spatial maps, MSAA determines the components through iterative optimization of; (a) a seed region matrix,  $C$  (that is identical for all subjects) and (b) a set of subject specific spatial maps ( $S$ ) corresponding to each archetype. The archetypes for each subject are given as the weighted average of the voxels specified in the seed region matrix, such that

$$A_i = X_i C$$

where  $X_i$  is the subject specific data and  $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times K}$  includes all archetypes defining distinct temporal profiles for the  $i$ 'th subject. Figure 2 illustrates how MSAA represents the fMRI data as archetypes and spatial maps. Each voxel time series is reconstructed by convex combinations as defined in  $S_i$  of the archetypes. Thus, both the columns of  $S_i$  and  $C$  are constrained to be nonnegative and to sum to one. The resulting spatial maps can therefore be interpreted as the fractional contribution of all voxels to the archetypal time series as specified in  $A_i$ .

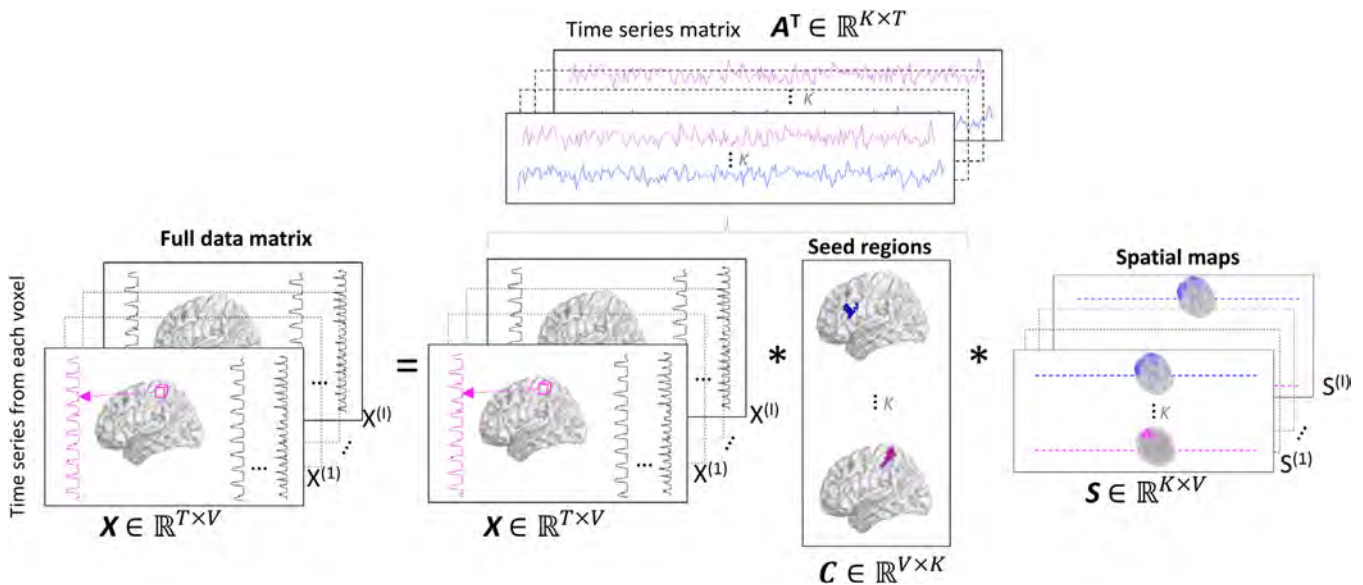
The MSAA decomposition is in general unique (Mørup & Hansen, 2012) and the linear model (per subject) can be formulated as

$$X_i = X_i C S_i + E_i,$$

Under the assumption of independently distributed additive Gaussian noise with heteroscedasticity over voxels we have

$$e_{i,v} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma_{i,v}^2),$$

Where  $e_{i,v}$  is a time vector of the residual in voxel  $v$  for subject  $i$  and  $\sigma_{i,v}^2$  is the voxel and subject specific noise variance. This lead to the likelihood



**FIGURE 2** Illustration of whole brain multi-subject archetypal analysis (wbMSAA). The columns data matrix  $X$  include the time series for all  $V$  voxels. Through iterative optimization, the MSAA algorithm determines a seed region matrix  $C$ , specifying the optimal choice of  $K$  seed regions across subjects, as well as a set of  $K$  temporal ( $X_i C$ ) and spatial components  $S_i$  for all  $B$  subjects. The model also includes a subject specific noise map, which is not specified in this figure [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]



$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_i^B \prod_v^V \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma_{i,v}^2)^{T/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\|\mathbf{x}_{i,v} - \mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{C} \mathbf{s}_{i,v}\|^2}{2\sigma_{i,v}^2}\right).$$

Optimizing this likelihood leads to a sparse seed region matrix  $\mathbf{C}$ , which selects the archetypical voxel time series that best span the entire dataset, and a corresponding set of subject specific spatial maps  $\mathbf{S}_i$ . For explicit derivation of update rules see (Hinrich et al., 2016). Determining  $\mathbf{C}$ ,  $\mathbf{S}_i$ , and  $\sigma_i$  is a nonconvex optimization problem (Mørup & Hansen, 2012), but a solution can be found by alternating optimization, that is, optimizing for  $\mathbf{C}$  while keeping  $\mathbf{S}_i$  and  $\sigma_i$  fixed and vice versa.

### 2.7.1 | Connection between ICA, seed based analysis, and MSAA

In the following, we show how the decomposition scheme of MSAA can be used to bridge spatial group ICA with seed based analysis. The MSAA directly finds subject specific spatial maps ( $\mathbf{S}_i$ ) and temporal activations ( $\mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{C}$ ) which through the common seed matrix ( $\mathbf{C}^{\text{MSAA}}$ ) express variability across subjects. In contrast, spatial group ICA assumes the spatial sources are fixed across subjects (Calhoun et al., 2003), however, individual subject expressions (spatial maps) can be identified through either back reconstruction or dual regression (Erhardt et al., 2011). When the spatial sources are known and no additional constraints are imposed upon the time series, solving for  $\mathbf{A}_i$  reduces to an ordinary least squares regression problem where the solution can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{A}_i = \mathbf{X}_i \bar{\mathbf{S}}^\top (\bar{\mathbf{S}} \bar{\mathbf{S}}^\top)^{-1}.$$

Here  $\bar{\mathbf{S}}$  represents the shared spatial components. In back reconstruction, individual subject components are formed through the expression

$$\mathbf{X}_i = \mathbf{A}_i \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i,$$

where  $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i$  is the individual spatial components and inserting the expression for  $\mathbf{A}_i$  we obtain

$$\mathbf{X}_i = \mathbf{X}_i \bar{\mathbf{S}}^\top (\bar{\mathbf{S}} \bar{\mathbf{S}}^\top)^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{S}}_i,$$

which again allows the individual spatial maps to be formed by solving an ordinary least squares problem. This establishes an attractive correspondence between MSAA and group ICA, where, in this case, the nonsparse “seed matrix” given by  $\mathbf{C}^{\text{ICA}} = \bar{\mathbf{S}}^\top (\bar{\mathbf{S}} \bar{\mathbf{S}}^\top)^{-1}$  can take on both positive and negative values whereas the columns are not constrained to sum to one.

### 2.7.2 | Spotlight MSAA

In this study, we considered an expansion to the MSAA algorithm by implementing a spotlight approach that restricted the seed region

matrix to prespecified ROIs. This allowed specifying a subset of voxels from which the seed regions were then defined,

$$\mathbf{X}_i = \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i \mathbf{C} \mathbf{s}_i + \mathbf{E}_i,$$

where  $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_i$  is the subset of voxel time series in the ROIs as illustrated in Figure 3. This approach is useful to investigate “archetypal generating activity” in specific areas, or if only approximate ROIs are known. The derivation is given in (Hinrich et al., 2016), though they did not investigate the restricted method or considered the stability of its solution.

In the remaining manuscript, we will refer to the restricted MSAA as spotlight MSAA (sMSAA) in contrast to the original whole brain MSAA (wbMSAA).

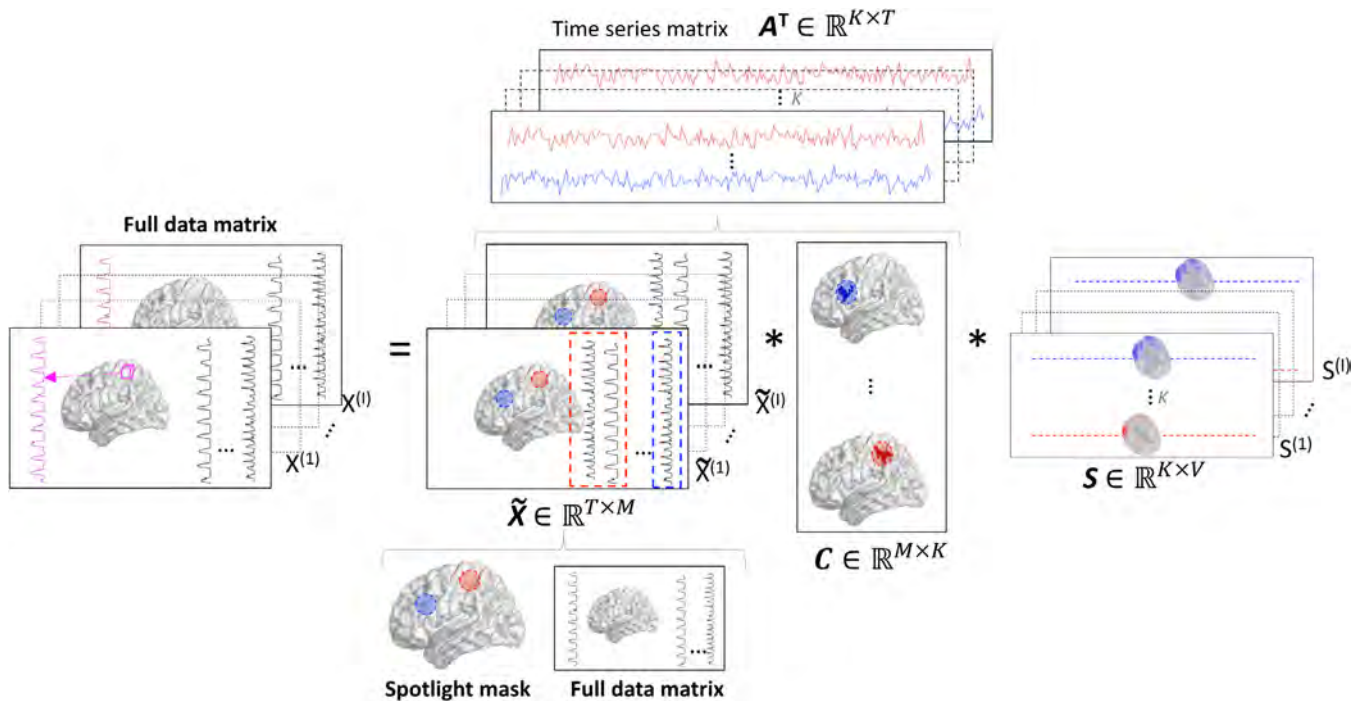
We have run two sMSAA analysis using seed region restriction maps from; (a) a literature study (sMSAA<sub>Lit</sub>) and (b) from a pooled condition analysis (sMSAA<sub>PCon</sub>) respectively, as described in Section 2.8.

#### Implementation

We applied group ICA through the GroupICATv4.0a GIFT toolbox (Rachakonda, Egolf, Correa, Calhoun, & Neuropsychiatry, 2015), using the Infomax algorithm and the corresponding default settings. The number of components was selected using the minimum description length as proposed in Li, Adali, and Calhoun (2007), which for our dataset resulted in 25 components. Finally, subject specific spatial and temporal components were determined using the default back reconstruction method implemented in GIFT (Calhoun et al., 2003). For visualization purposes, the spatial components were z-scored and both positive and negative contributions were shown.

For the MSAA analysis, we used the same number of components as for ICA. As the MSAA algorithm is a nonconvex optimization problem, there was a risk that the solution would get stuck in a local and not global minimum. As done for other nonconvex problems, we therefore repeated the analysis several times with different random initializations for each run, and chose the solution with the lowest final cost at the end of the optimization. Optimization halted after either a maximum of 250 iterations or when the relative decrease in the cost function was less than  $10^{-6}$  as in Hinrich et al. (2016). Different initializations, such as the FurthestSum initialization (Mørup & Hansen, 2012) have been suggested for archetypal analysis. However, as these resulted in a higher final cost function, random initialization was used in this study.

To increase the stability of MSAA the algorithm was rerun with 10 random initializations choosing the solution that obtained the lowest cost function. To further investigate the stability of the algorithm we repeated the fitting procedure 10 times and compared the spatial maps across runs using spatial correlation, this indicated that components were fairly stable across runs, providing an average correlation of 0.86. Visual inspection revealed that the differences were primarily due to minor changes in network expressions between runs for some components, see the stability of wbMSAA section in Data S1 for further information. Furthermore, the finding of significant classification of HSA using wbMSAA times series reproduced in all 10 individual runs.



**FIGURE 3** Illustration of the spotlight (sMSAA) approach. For the spotlight MSAA  $C$  and  $X$  are restricted to only include a subset of the voxels corresponding to some predefined regions of interest (for simplicity only two regions are shown here). However, the exact localization and size of the seed regions are still optimized by the algorithm. Apart from the restriction, the model is identical to the wbMSAA shown in Figure 2 [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

## 2.8 | Predefined ROIs

For the seed regions, analysis and spotlight MSAA predefined ROIs were a prerequisite for the analysis. We defined the ROIs as all voxels in a sphere (8 mm radius) around a given center coordinate. These were determined through a literature study of ToM and empathy processing, taking into account both reproducibility of the areas (Abu-Akel & Shamay-Tsoory, 2011; Shamay-Tsoory et al., 2010) and specificity for the comic strip task (Benedetti, Bernasconi, Bosia, & Smeraldi, 2009; Völlm et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2015). The center coordinates are illustrated and labeled in Figure 4 and the MNI coordinates can be found in Data S1–Table S3.

Finally, for the classification of social anhedonia using spotlight MSAA, center coordinates were also obtained using the peak coordinates of significant clusters for the pooled condition analysis (PCon) as described in Section 2.4. All center coordinates can be found in Data S1–Table S3.

## 2.9 | Statistical tests and measures

We used the accuracy as performance measure for the task classification, as it provides a straightforward interpretation for balanced samples. However, for the classification of unbalanced datasets the accuracy measure can be misleading. That is, even in the case of a trivial classification where all subjects were classified as the dominant class (e.g., in this study: LSA = 56, HSA = 14), the accuracy would be  $56/(56 + 14) = 80\%$ . To mitigate this issue, we used the Matthews

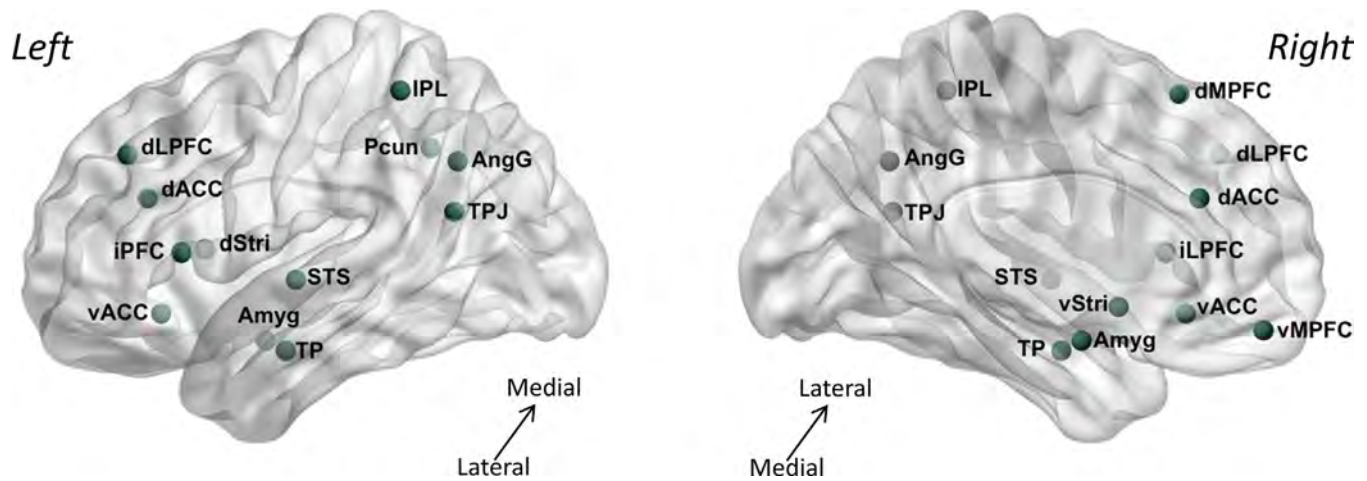
correlation coefficient (MCC) for the social anhedonia classification, as it is regarded as being one of the best summary statistic measures for unbalanced datasets (Baldi, Brunak, Chauvin, Andersen, & Nielsen, 2000; Powers, 2011). MCC returns a value between  $-1$  (worst) and  $1$  (best) where  $0$  indicates that the result is no better than random classification.

For all classification procedures, statistical inference of the performance was performed using a random permutation testing procedure (Nichols & Holmes, 2003). For each of 1,000 random permutations the entire classification procedure, including the inner and outer nested cross validation loops, were repeated to obtain an empirical null distribution of the performance measure (accuracy and MCC for task and HSA classification respectively).

As mentioned above, for some features the classification was performed for each ROI/network separately, and the significance of these analyses therefore needed to be corrected for multiple comparisons. This was done by the use of maximum permutation statistics, where an empirical null distribution was obtained by considering only the most significant effect over the entire set (here regions or components), which controls the family-wise error over the set.

## 3 | RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This combined results and discussion section is split into five subsections, covering different aspects of the study. The first section includes a general discussion of the networks determined



**FIGURE 4** Illustration of center coordinates determined based on the literature. These nodes were used both for the seed region analysis approaches, and for the spotlight MSAA. Abbreviations: Amyg, amygdala; AngG, angular gyrus; d/v ACC, dorsal/ventral anterior cingulate cortex; d/v mPFC, dorsal/ventral medial prefrontal cortex; d/v Stri, dorsal/ventral striatum; IPL, inferior parietal lobule; i/dL PFC, inferior/dorsolateral prefrontal cortex; Pkun, precuneus; STS, superior temporal sulcus; TP, temporal pole; TPJ, temporoparietal junction [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

by the decomposition methods (ICA and MSAA), and comments on the stability of these approaches. Sections 3.2 and 3.3 cover the results from the task and social anhedonia classification, respectively, and discuss how these findings correspond to our hypotheses and previous literature. Since MSAA is a new decomposition method, which previously only has been applied in one neuroimaging study (Hinrich et al., 2016), we comment on the general interpretability and stability of the MSAA networks, and compare it with ICA in Section 3.4. Finally, in Section 3.5 we discuss general limitations of our study, as well as suggestions for future development and applications.

### 3.1 | Network extraction using decomposition methods

Visual inspection of the spatial maps from ICA and MSA showed that both methods captured networks which previously have been related to ToM processing (Benedetti et al., 2009; Völlm et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2015), without any a priori knowledge about the task onset and duration (which was a requirement for the previous studies that used SPM analysis). Furthermore, we observed that both ICA and MSAA successfully captured effect of no interest (such as pulsation and movement artifacts) as well as other specific activity (visual or motor processing) in separate networks. This is an important sanity check, as noise/unrelated activity would otherwise contaminate the task related networks.

#### 3.1.1 | Stability

As described in Section 2.7, the wbMSAA algorithm was run  $10 \times 10$  times, comparing the stability of the spatial networks, when the best (lowest final cost) solution of 10 runs was compared

for 10 repetitions. Using greedy matching a mean correlation of 86% was obtained. Visual inspection showed that the same networks were found in all 10 runs, but with minor differences, resulting in the nonperfect matching. Using the 10 repeated runs to investigate the classification stability, the same feature (discussed later in Section 3.3) was found to result in the highest classification performance (MCC varied between 0.49 and 0.56), which was significant for all 10 repetitions. This stability analysis was only performed for the wbMSAA. For the spotlight approaches the algorithm was repeated 10 times, and the solution with the lowest cost function was chosen.

#### 3.1.2 | Cross validation

We used stratified k-fold cross validation as described in Section 2.4. For cross validation, it is important that the test and training data sets are independent. For the seed region analysis features, this is naturally the case, as the feature extraction was performed for each subject separately. However, in order to limit the computational complexity and to ensure correspondence of components across cross validation splits for ICA and MSAA, the decomposition was run on the entire dataset. Note that this did not lead to biased estimates of the classification performance, as no information about the class labels were used in the decomposition step.

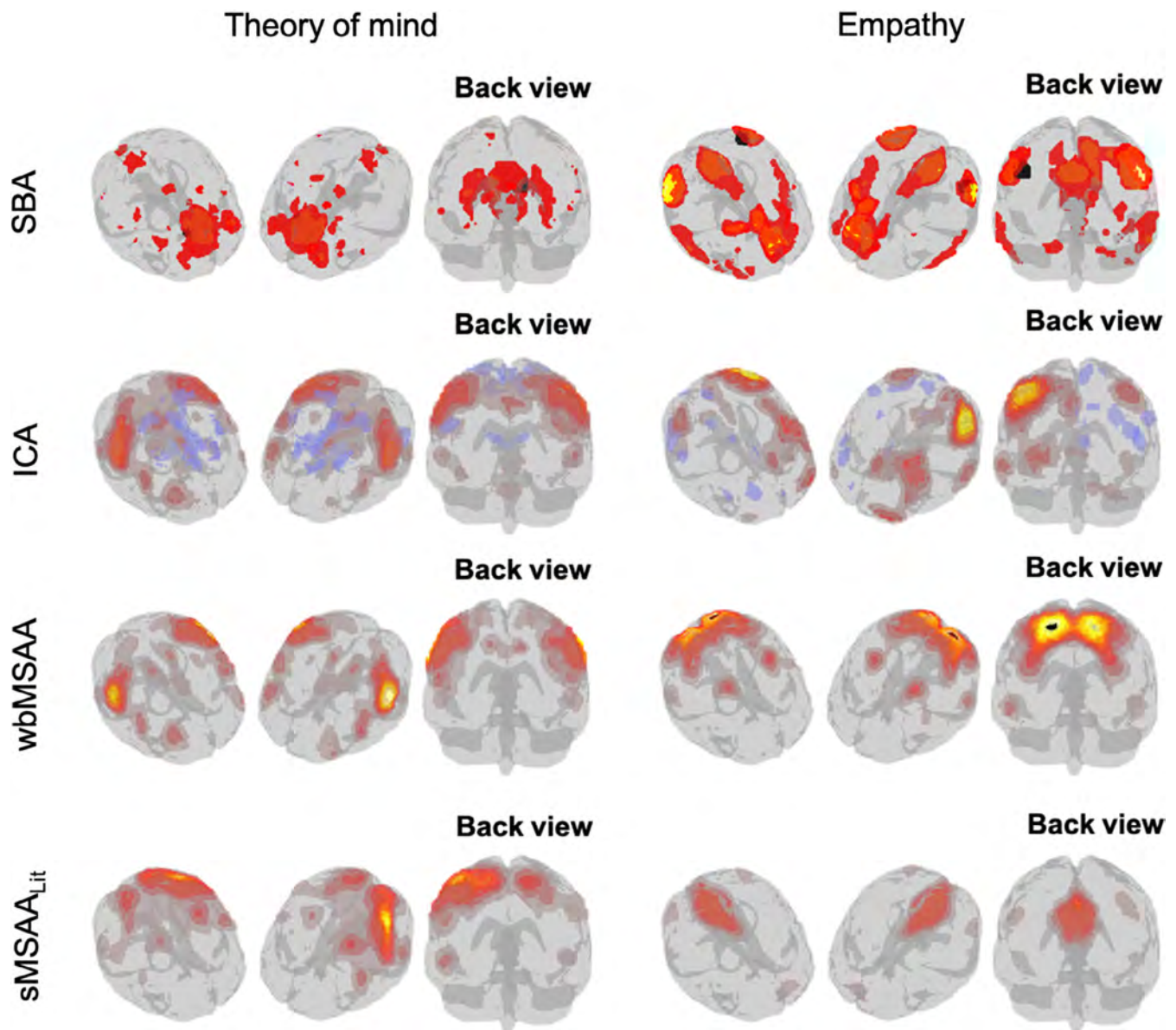
### 3.2 | Classification of task conditions

The aim of the task classification was twofold. Firstly, it was a proof of concept of our classification approach, using either temporal or spatial network features as input to the SVC. Secondly, we wanted to investigate if the information captured by the networks was sufficient to actually classify task conditions, and to see how the networks

important for classification correspond to previous literature on ToM and empathy processing. The classification performances are listed in Table 1, and networks are illustrated in Figure 5.

First, we used the activation maps from the *SPM analysis* for classification. These activation maps yielded the highest task classification performance (mean accuracy of 83%), which was expected since they were informed about the onset and duration of the task conditions. The center coordinates, cluster size, and z-score of the significant clusters can be found in Data S1–Table S3. This result was mainly used to validate that there was sufficient signal difference between the task conditions.

To investigate our hypothesis about the importance of both temporal and spatial network dynamics, we used six features from the *seed region analysis* as illustrated in Figure 1. Firstly, we found that classification was not significant when using static measures such as the mean and variance, indicating that these simple measures do not capture enough signal difference between task blocks for classification in the considered sample. On the contrary, all *spatial networks features* (covariance and seed based analysis) resulted in significant classification with accuracies from 60 to 73%. As described in Section 2.7, classification was performed for each of the 25 networks extracted in the seed based analysis. Table 1 and Figure 5 include the



**FIGURE 5** Mean spatial maps across subjects of the networks for ToM-Phy1 classification (left) and Emp-Phy2 classification (right), for SBA, ICA, wbMSAA, and sMSAA<sub>Lit</sub>, respectively. More significant networks can be found in Data S1–Figures S2–S4. For all four methods, the ToM-Phy1 classifying networks have most activity in the temporoparietal regions, and prefrontal regions. For the Emp-Phy2, processing similar regions are included, but generally more activity is located in posterior parietal regions. For visualization, the SBA networks include the most significant 10% of the network correlations, each ICA map was z-scored and thresholded at  $Z = 1$ , and the MSAA networks include voxels with 10% or more fractional contribution [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

networks that obtained the highest classification performance, however, more networks yielded significant classification, which can be found in Data S1–Figure S1. For the empathy condition (Emp-Phy2), the seed of the network yielding the highest classification performance was located in the angular gyrus and the network further included the inferior parietal lobule (IPL), precuneus, medial temporal gyrus, and medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC). For the ToM classification, the seed was located in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), and the network included frontal lobe regions, caudate and the precuneus. Most of these regions were suggested to be involved in the ToM or empathy related processing in previous studies (Abu-Akel & Shamay-Tsoory, 2011; Fan, Duncan, de Greck, & Northoff, 2011). In particular, the IPL, precuneus, middle temporal gyrus, mPFC, and ACC are key regions of default mode network, which plays important role in social processing, such as understanding others' beliefs and feelings and self-referencing (Andrews-Hanna, Reidler, Sepulcre, Poulin, & Buckner, 2010; Takeuchi et al., 2014).

Finally, we also tried to classify the conditions using the time series from the 25 seed regions. Here significant classification was only obtained when concatenating the time series from all components (mean accuracy 65%), and not when using the TS from each seed region separately.

For the *decomposition methods*, we used the time series from each component extracted using the three methods: ICA, wbMSAA, and SMSAA<sub>Lit</sub>. All decomposition time series yielded a high classification performance with accuracies ranging from 67 to 79%, which were significant after correcting for multiple comparisons. The reason for the high classification performance when using time series from decomposition methods compared to seed region analysis, might be that the decomposition methods extract components which maximally explain the data. They therefore captured networks (and corresponding time series) which were the most prominent in the data, whereas, the seed region analysis relied on seed region points that were manually chosen based on previous literature, and thus were not specific for the given dataset.

The corresponding spatial maps of the best components are shown in Figure 5, and other significant networks can be found in Data S1–Figures S2–S4. Generally, we found that the best networks across most methods included similar regions. For the *ToM-Phy1* classification (left column), the networks include inferior and medial frontal gyrus, temporoparietal junction (TPJ), posterior cingulate cortex (PCC), and postcentral gyrus activation, which all are known to be involved in ToM processing (Amodio & Frith, 2006; Ettinger et al., 2015; Frith & Frith, 2006; Pickup, 2006). For the *Emp-Phy2* classification, the networks included similar regions as for the *ToM-Phy1* classification, but generally there was more activation in posterior parietal regions, such as precuneus and PCC.

To summarize, our findings show that both spatial networks and temporal dynamics capture important information, which enabled significant classification of the ongoing social cognition task. The networks, which yielded the highest classification performance, generally included temporoparietal and prefrontal areas, which consistently have been

considered core regions for ToM and empathy processing (Frith & Frith, 2006; Schurz, Radua, Aichhorn, Richlan, & Perner, 2014).

### 3.3 | Classification of social anhedonia

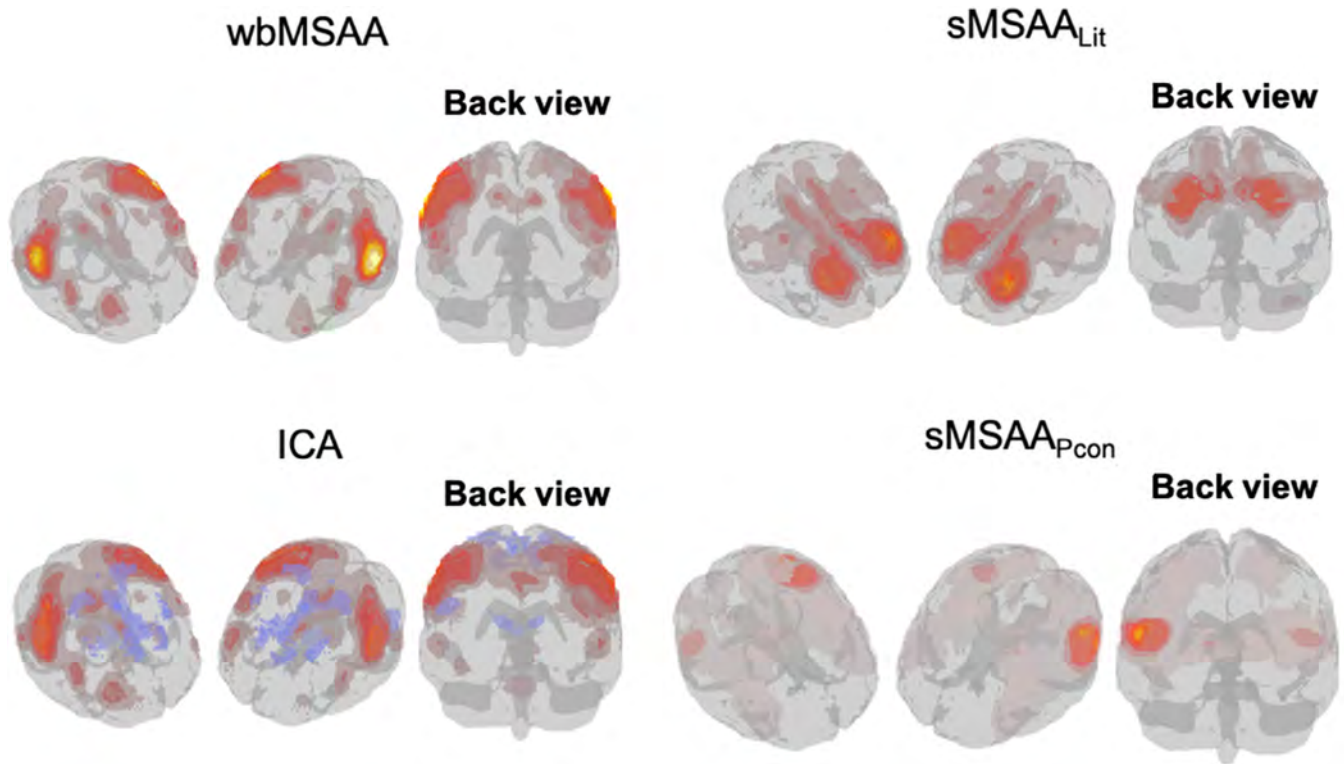
In this section, we show and discuss the results from the social anhedonia classification. The classification performances, measured by the MCC are listed in Table 1 and Figure 6 shows the spatial maps of the features obtaining the highest classification performance.

Whereas the activation maps from the SPM analysis resulted in the highest task classification performance of all methods, our results show that neither the raw maps, nor the seed based static measures (mean and variance) enabled significant classification of social anhedonia. In fact, for the *seed region analysis* features, only the covariance feature obtained significant classification with a MCC = 0.43 ( $p = .005$ ). This indicates that simple network coupling between regions that are known to be involved in social cognition processing, seems to capture important information to differentiate the high and low social anhedonia group. Additional analysis of which part of the covariance were important for classification, revealed that the only feature surviving correction for multiple comparisons was the variance within the left TPJ. This region has been associated with social cognition and ToM in several previous studies (Bodnar et al., 2014; Dodell-Feder, Tully, Lincoln, & Hooker, 2014; Kronbichler, Tscherneegg, Martin, Schurz, & Kronbichler, 2017) and was also a prominent region in the decomposition methods to presented below. For more details on this analysis see the “interpretation of covariance features for HSA classification” section in Data S1. The second highest classification performance was obtained when using the time series from the inferior lateral prefrontal cortex seed (MCC = 0.35,  $p_{\text{un-corrected}} = .007$ ), however, classification was not significant after multiple comparisons correction, which was necessary since classification was performed for each seed region separately.

On the contrary, several features from the *decomposition methods* yielded significant classification even after multiple comparisons correction. Here, we used both the time series and spatial maps for each network as classification feature, and corrected for multiple comparisons using maximum permutation statistics across components. For each decomposition method, only one (or sometimes no) feature yielded significant classification.

The highest classification performance was obtained when using one time series from the wbMSAA approach (MCC = 0.56,  $p = .008$ ). Very interestingly this was the same TS that also obtained the highest task classification performance for the ToM condition, highlighting the coupling between schizotypy and ToM processing (Bora & Pantelis, 2013; Pickup, 2006). In future studies, such coupling between schizotypy and a relevant task (e.g., ToM), could be used to preselect relevant network features instead of testing the classification for all features extracted by the MSAA.

Furthermore, the spatial map corresponding to this time series also obtained the highest classification performance of all wbMSAA spatial maps, which was borderline significant (MCC = 0.42,  $p = .09$ ,  $p_{\text{un-corrected}} = .006$ ). The seed of this network was in the TPJ, and the network further included inferior and medial PFC and insula.



**FIGURE 6** Mean spatial maps of the components yielding significant HSA classification performance. For all features, highest classification performance was obtained when using the times series (TS). This figure shows the corresponding spatial maps. The top row shows the two networks, corresponding to the TS features that obtained significant classification after multiple comparisons correction (wbMSAA and sMSAA<sub>Lit</sub>). Visualization threshold was 10% fractional contribution. The networks in the bottom row are from the ICA and sMSAA<sub>PCon</sub> analysis, where the un-corrected  $p$ -value was below .05. For visualization, the ICA map was thresholded at a Z-score of 1 and the sMSAA<sub>PCon</sub> network include voxels with 5% fractional contribution [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

Furthermore, the ICA feature (time series) that resulted in the highest classification performance (MCC = 0.45,  $p = .07$ ,  $p_{\text{un-corrected}} = .005$ ), had a corresponding spatial map, that was nearly identical to the network from the wbMSAA analysis (see Figure 6 and Data S1–Figure S5).

The second decomposition feature that yielded significant classification, was the time series from the spotlight sMSAA<sub>Lit</sub> approach (MCC = 0.49,  $p = .03$ ). The spatial map corresponding to this TS had its seed region in the dorsolateral PFC and furthermore the network included cingulate cortex and motor areas. For the sMSAA<sub>Lit</sub> approach, we chose the seed regions which were known to be involved in ToM and empathy processing, since it is well established that social cognition is reduced in patients with schizophrenia (Bora et al., 2009; Brunet et al., 2000), and in subjects with schizotypy (Ettinger et al., 2015; Pickup, 2006).

As described in Section 2.8, we also tested another spotlight approach where we used the peak coordinates from a pooled condition analysis (sMSAA<sub>PCon</sub>), because this would be a more data driven way to choose center coordinates. Since the pooled condition analysis was specific for the given task, we hypothesized that the features extracted by this approach would result in a higher classification performance than for the sMSAA<sub>Lit</sub> approach. However, neither of the time series or spatial maps from the sMSAA<sub>PCon</sub> analysis resulted in significant classification after multiple comparisons correction. Only

one component (time series) obtained a classification performance, with an un-corrected  $p$ -value  $< .05$ . Most activation in this network was in the TPJ and angular gyrus, but also included thalamus, insula, and i/m FG.

To summarize, the components from the decomposition methods, which obtained the highest classification performance generally included temporoparietal and prefrontal regions, as well as insula and cingulate cortex. These findings are in accordance with earlier studies which have reported lower white matter integrity in the fronto-temporal tracts (measured by diffusion tensor imaging) in subjects with a high degree of schizotypy (Nelson et al., 2011), and both structural as well as functional studies have related changes in the PFC to schizotypy (Kühn et al., 2012; Raine, Sheard, Reynolds, & Lencz, 1992). Furthermore, earlier studies have shown a decrease in insula gray matter volume in UHR groups (Chan et al., 2011), and it has even been suggested that structural insular abnormalities might be related to the vulnerability for the development of later psychosis (Takahashi et al., 2009). In future studies, it could thus be interesting to investigate if functional imaging could support the structural findings of Takahashi et al., and maybe enable identification of schizotypy in even earlier stages than what is possible with the structural changes. As for insula, gray matter volume reductions in thalamus have also been found in both schizophrenia (Ettinger et al., 2001) as well as in schizotypy (Kühn et al., 2012). Furthermore, fMRI studies have shown

correlation between reduced activation in thalamus and the degree of schizotypy (Aichert, Williams, Möller, Kumari, & Ettinger, 2012; Kumari, Antonova, & Geyer, 2008), but it should be noted that the subjects performed another task in these studies.

In summary, the included areas of the two networks which are able to significantly classify HSA, have consistently been related to schizotypy and the schizophrenia development, which highlight the potential importance of these networks.

Finally, we want to comment on the use of *spatial and temporal network features* for the classification. Whereas many spatial network features resulted in significant classification of the task conditions, the time series generally resulted in a higher classification performance for the social anhedonia classification. This finding indicates that the temporal dynamics during the social cognition task captures important information to differentiate between high and low social anhedonia. In comparison, the connectivity measures used to extract spatial network features in this study are regarded static. In future studies, it would thus be interesting to look at dynamic functional connectivity, where the connectivity is estimated repeatedly for different windows of the time series, and thus also reflect the dynamic variations in the time series (Hutchison et al., 2013) (Damaraju et al., 2014; Nielsen et al., 2018).

### 3.4 | Discussion of the MSAA method

This study is one of the first to use the MSAA method on neuroimaging data, and the first to implement the spotlight approach that further bridges aspects of data-driven decomposition methods and seed based analysis. We, therefore, highlight some of the important aspects of MSAA.

#### 3.4.1 | Interpretability

Due to the nonnegativity and sum-to-one constraints, the spatial maps in MSAA have a clear interpretation, showing the fractional contributions of the components (archetypes) at each voxel. We used a threshold of 0.1 for visualization, meaning that for each voxel shown in a spatial map, this component had a relative contribution of at least 10% to that given observation. A similar interpretation of the scale in ICA is not immediately possible without additional post processing, and furthermore as the ICA allows both positive and negative contributions, the components can include cancelation effects leading to less straightforward interpretation.

#### 3.4.2 | Noise modeling

The MSAA approach enables heteroscedastic noise modeling, that is, the noise can be estimated for each subject and each voxel separately, instead of assuming it to be constant, which is done in previous decomposition methods such as ICA. Visual inspection of the spatial distribution of these noise levels (Data S1–Figure S3) showed that most noise was present around the edges of the brain and close to known major blood vessels, which probably reflects residual

movement effects and noise due to blood pulsation, respectively. A more elaborate discussion of this noise modeling can be found in (Hinrich et al., 2016).

#### 3.4.3 | Spotlight

The spotlight restriction of MSAA showed to successfully enforce the algorithm to reveal functional networks, which otherwise were obscured by other salient signal features. This is somewhat similar to what was done by seed based analysis, but for the spotlight MSAA the optimal seed is determined by data driven optimization instead of manual assignment. Restriction of the seed regions can be especially valuable if a specific hypothesis needs to be tested, for example, how the connectivity between the whole brain and a particular region changes in relation to disease progression. However, compared to the wbMSAA approach, it requires the user to choose a number of seed regions, which can be difficult to choose. In this study, we have chosen center coordinates based on the social cognition task, either based on previous literature or from a pooled condition analysis. Another approach could have been to choose seeds, which have been related to social anhedonia and/or schizotypy progression.

#### 3.4.4 | Nonconvex optimization and number of components

As for ICA, the MSAA algorithm is a nonconvex optimization problem, which means that the optimization might get stuck in a local and not global minimum. In practice, this means that repeated runs can result in somewhat different networks. How severe this problem is, depends on the stability of the given dataset (signal to noise ratio, intersubject differences, etc.) as well as on the number of components chosen. In this study, we used 25 components as this was found to be the optimal number using the minimum description length criteria, which is the default implemented in GIFT toolbox (Li et al., 2007). Using 25 components, resulted in relatively stable networks, with a mean spatial correlation of 86% for the wbMSAA when choosing the best (lowest cost) solution between 10 runs as described in Section 2.7. Visual inspection of the networks showed that the overall network structures between runs were very stable, and the nonperfect machining resulted in small network differences between runs (networks illustrated in Data S1 section “stability of wbMSAA”). Furthermore, we noted that the number of components within one run seemed reasonable, such that known networks were captured by separate spatial maps (mixing of e.g., task and visual processing networks would indicate that the number of components was too low), and did not split networks up into separate components (this would indicate that the number of components was too high). All in all, this indicates that the number of runs and components were appropriate for the given study. However, we want to emphasize the importance of investigating the stability in future studies applying MSAA.

### 3.4.5 | Toolbox

We have implemented the MSAA (both whole brain and spotlight) code into a SPM plugin (compatible with SPM 12), which interested users can download here: <http://www.brain-fmri.com/MSAA/>. The plugin enables the user to apply the MSAA algorithm on fMRI data, by simply loading the preprocessed images and choose the optimization parameters specified in the toolbox.

### 3.5 | Limitations and future perspectives

As discussed in the previous section there are some challenges for decomposition methods, such as nonconvexity and choosing an appropriate number of components. Another large challenge of this study was the relatively small difference between subjects of the high and low social anhedonia respectively. Firstly, classification was challenged by the low separation boundary which was used (mean plus one standard deviation). Though similar boundaries have been used in previous group comparison studies of schizotypy (Wang et al., 2016), it was challenging for the support vector machine to learn from the data of two relatively similar classes. Secondly, even with this low separation threshold, we had an unbalanced dataset, with 56 (LSA) and 14 (HSA) subjects in each group. This further challenged the supervised classification procedure, and made the classification performance sensitive the classification of few subjects. We tried to mitigate this problem by (a) using weights in the support vector machine to counteract the imbalance and (b) used the MCC measure to assess classification performance. Additionally, it is important to note that while full correction of multiple comparisons was considered within each feature extraction method, this was not done across these different methods. This was motivated by the main aim of comparing a set of, in many aspects, very similar feature extraction methods. With these limitations in mind, we consider the present study an explorative investigation of features for classification of social anhedonia rather than a study of the neural correlates of social anhedonia itself. Still, we strongly expect that a larger group, particularly with more subjects with high social anhedonia, would make classification easier and more stable. Furthermore, including subjects with more pronounced social anhedonia, or subjects belonging to other risk groups, would also be very interesting from a clinical perspective.

However, even with these challenges, the whole brain and spotlight MSAA algorithms extracted features that yielded significant classification. Using the same methods on ultra-high-risk groups or patients with schizophrenia would thus be very interesting to investigate how networks alterations are related to the development of schizophrenia. Optimally, this could be investigated through a longitudinal study starting with a large group of subjects with a continuous range of schizotypy and a specific and well-designed experimental set-up.

## 4 | CONCLUSION

Using a variety of different feature extraction methods, we found significant classification of social anhedonia for two features, both consisting of times series extracted by the MSAA decomposition methods. The

highest classification performance was achieved using the whole brain MSAA. Importantly, the same time series also obtained the highest task classification performance, making a strong coupling between the processing of the ToM task and the degree of social anhedonia. This indicates that future studies could focus on components representing task-relevant networks for classification of schizotypy, thereby circumventing the need for correction for multiple comparisons across components. The spatial map corresponding to the time series yielding highest classification performance, included the TPJ, prefrontal cortex, angular gyrus and insula, which all have been consistently related to schizotypy as well as to the development of schizophrenia in earlier studies.

Finally, a nearly identical feature was also identified as the best performing when using features extracted by ICA. The repeated occurrence of the same feature highlights the potential importance of this network for early identification of schizotypy. Thus, in future studies, it would be very interesting to investigate if the same network would also be important for subjects with more pronounced schizotypy and other high-risk groups through the spectrum of schizophrenia development.

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### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no professional or financial interests that could be perceived as having biased the presentation.

### DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding authors. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

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