ALTERED TOPOGRAPHY OF INTRINSIC FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY IN CHILDHOOD RISK FOR SOCIAL ANXIETY

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Background: Extreme shyness in childhood arising from behavioral inhibition (BI) is among the strongest risk factors for developing social anxiety. Although no imaging studies of intrinsic brain networks in children with BI have been reported, adults with a history of BI exhibit altered functioning of frontolimbic circuits and enhanced processing of salient, personally relevant information. BI in childhood may be marked by increased coupling of salience (insula) and default (ventromedial prefrontal cortex [vmPFC]) network hubs. Methods: We tested this potential relation in 42 children ages 9–12, oversampled for high BI. Participants provided resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging. A novel topographical pattern analysis of salience network intrinsic functional connectivity was conducted, and the impact of salience–default coupling on the relation between BI and social anxiety symptoms was assessed via moderation analysis. Results: Children with high BI exhibit altered salience network topography, marked by reduced insula connectivity to dorsal anterior cingulate and increased insula connectivity to vmPFC. Whole-brain analyses revealed increased connectivity of salience, executive, and sensory networks with default network hubs in children higher in BI. Finally, the relation between insula-ventromedial prefrontal connectivity and social anxiety symptoms was strongest among the children highest in BI. Conclusions: BI is associated with an increase in connectivity to default network hubs that may bias processing toward personally relevant information during development. These altered patterns of connectivity point to potential biomarkers of the neural profile of risk for anxiety in childhood. Depression and Anxiety 33:995–1004, 2016. © 2016 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

Key words: temperament; social anxiety; development; risk; fMRI

INTRODUCTION

Social anxiety disorders are rooted in early patterns of socioemotional development. Part of the difficulty in addressing social anxiety linked maladaptation comes from the fact that the most devastating outcomes often manifest in adolescence or emerging adulthood, quite late in the course of developmental processes related to disorder. This may contribute to the lack of progress in

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identifying pathophysiological mechanisms or predictors of anxiety risk trajectories.\textsuperscript{[1–3]} Studying children with behavioral inhibition (BI), or extremely shy temperament, provides a unique opportunity to uncover neural biomarkers of developmental risk for later anxiety,\textsuperscript{[4,5]} which may not fully overlap with markers of concurrent clinical\textsuperscript{[6,7]} or trait\textsuperscript{[8,9]} anxiety. Children with the BI risk phenotype are fearful in response to novelty and withdrawn in social situations, and exhibit heightened rates of social anxiety.\textsuperscript{[10,11]} BI is also one of the strongest childhood predictors of later social anxiety disorder, with approximately half of BI children going on to develop social anxiety.\textsuperscript{[12–16]} The BI–anxiety link is so robust it has been suggested that childhood BI may be a prodromal period in the emergency of social anxiety disorder, or that later diagnoses may simply reflect preexisting disorders.\textsuperscript{[17]} To probe the patterns of brain organization associated with risk for anxiety due to BI, the present study examines intrinsic functional connectivity (iFC) in children varying in level of BI.

Prior research on young adults characterized as BI in childhood or adulthood has shown that BI is related to biases in the processing of salient information and systematic differences in underlying neural networks.\textsuperscript{[18]} Specifically, children high in BI display biased attention to threat\textsuperscript{[19]} and psychophysiological and neuroendocrine indicators of limbic hyperactivation.\textsuperscript{[20–22]} Young adults characterized as BI exhibit altered frontolimbic functional connectivity\textsuperscript{[23–25]} and heightened amygdala reactivity in response to novel or threatening stimuli.\textsuperscript{[21,26,27]} Furthermore, BI individuals with the most biased frontolimbic function may be at the highest risk for anxiety.\textsuperscript{[22,24,28]} In this way, neural processing biases may be present in BI children on a developmental trajectory toward anxiety.\textsuperscript{[19,29]}

BI-to-anxiety links are not isolated to the amygdala circuitry.\textsuperscript{[10,11]} BI is also related to heightened striatal processing of rewards,\textsuperscript{[30,32–34]} which points toward a more general enhancement in processing personally salient cues.\textsuperscript{[25]} Indeed, the striatal response is particularly elevated in BI individuals when presented with self-relevant stimuli, such as feedback from peers they are interested in interacting with.\textsuperscript{[33,35]}

Taken together, a theme emerges that BI is associated with differences in functioning within core neural systems involved in processing personally salient information, which may reflect an early emerging alteration in the organization of intrinsic brain networks that coordinate such processing, such as the salience (SN) and default mode (DMN) networks.\textsuperscript{[36–41]} The SN (insula; dorsal anterior cingulate cortex, dACC) is involved in filtering salient information in support of goal-directed behavior,\textsuperscript{[36–38]} whereas the DMN (posterior cingulate cortex, PCC; ventromedial prefrontal cortex, vmPFC) is purported to support self-referential, internally focused processing.\textsuperscript{[36,42–45]} Thus, a shift in the balance of insula connectivity—decreasing to SN and increasing to DMN regions—would suggest that BI is marked by an “internal shift,” consistent with studies showing BI individuals exhibit biases in information processing toward more personally relevant information (e.g., threat, reward, and social feedback).

The current study is the first to examine iFC in children at risk for social anxiety in order to capture patterns of neural connectivity that may underlie the emergence and progression of socioemotional profiles. As part of a larger study, children were assessed for BI in middle childhood via parental report. Although BI is often assessed in toddlerhood,\textsuperscript{[22]} the stability of the trait lends itself to characterization later in life.\textsuperscript{[46,47]} In addition, maternal report of BI is predictive of anxiety level over time.\textsuperscript{[10]}

First, we examined BI-linked patterns of iFC with a novel topographical pattern analysis to probe for the hypothesized “internal shift.” Second, we conducted traditional whole-brain seed-based analyses in a priori (amygdala subregions, insula, and posterior cingulate), as well as data-derived networks, to determine whether our findings were stable across analytic approaches as well as to reveal broader connectivity patterns related to BI.

Three predictions were made: (1) For SN topography, BI would relate to a shift in the topography of insula connectivity from dorsal to ventral mediol PFC. (2) For BI individuals, traditional whole-brain analyses would reveal that regions involved in processing salient information (amygdala, insula) would show increased iFC with the DMN (PCC and vmPFC), and reduced iFC with typical SN regions. (3) Finally, high BI children showing the greatest shift in salience network iFC would be at greatest risk for anxiety (exhibit greatest symptoms), consistent with the notion that shifts in the organization of intrinsic brain networks are evident in children on a developmental trajectory toward social anxiety problems.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**STUDY PROCEDURES**

Data are from the baseline session of a larger ongoing study. Although undergoing functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), participants were instructed to lay quietly as a neutral slideshow (nature photographs) was presented for passive viewing. The Pennsylvania State University Institutional Review Board approved study procedures. Procedures were explained to participants and a caregiver, who then provided written assent and consent prior to participation.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Participants included in the analyses were 42 children ages 9–12, oversampled for BI based on parental report on the Behavioral Inhibition Questionnaire (BIQ). The BIQ is useful for characterizing BI in later childhood, allowing researchers to study BI children outside the context of large, multimethod assessment studies that recruit children in the first few years of life.\textsuperscript{[46,47]} Children were excluded from participation if they had a severe psychiatric diagnosis (other than anxiety/depression; e.g., bipolar disorder), IQ below 70, or a current severe medical illness. Of the children who were screened for participation, 34 BI (BIQ total score > 120 or BIQ social novelty score > 60) and 45 noninhibited (BN)
TABLE 1. Participant characteristics for full sample (All) and participants recruited from high and low BI populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>BIQ*</th>
<th>Social phobia*</th>
<th>Block design</th>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>FSIQ-E</th>
<th>FD</th>
<th>Censored volumes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High BI</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6M/11F</td>
<td>10.1 (0.8)</td>
<td>125.5 (16.1)</td>
<td>3.1 (0.5)</td>
<td>10.2 (2.9)</td>
<td>11.8 (2.9)</td>
<td>105.9 (14.9)</td>
<td>0.24 (0.13)</td>
<td>24 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low BI</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12M/13F</td>
<td>10.2 (0.9)</td>
<td>75.6 (21.6)</td>
<td>0.6 (0.5)</td>
<td>11.2 (3.5)</td>
<td>12.9 (2.8)</td>
<td>111.4 (15.1)</td>
<td>0.21 (0.12)</td>
<td>19 (22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>18M/24F</td>
<td>10.1 (0.8)</td>
<td>95.8 (32)</td>
<td>1.6 (2.7)</td>
<td>10.8 (3.3)</td>
<td>12.5 (2.9)</td>
<td>109.2 (15.1)</td>
<td>0.22 (0.13)</td>
<td>21 (20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means (SD) for age, Behavioral Inhibition Questionnaire total scores (BIQ), and social phobia symptoms assessed by the DISC clinical interview. Block design, Vocabulary, and Full Scale IQ Estimate (FSIQ-E) are from the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV). Mean framewise displacement in functional MRI scan (FD) and mean number of functional MRI volumes censored from analyses due to movement (FD > 0.5 mm) did not significantly differ between groups (P's > .3).

A PRIORI SEEDS
For whole-brain, seed-based analyses, a priori seeds (Supporting Information Fig. S1) were placed in bilateral amygdala subregions (basolateral, centromedial, and superficial amygdala), insula, and posterior cingulate. Rather than examining connectivity of amygdala as a whole, subregions were examined separately as they have known anatomical and functional variation relevant to anxiety.

GLOBAL iFC SEEDS
We also used data-driven analyses to derive seed regions from anywhere in the brain where iFC related to continuous BI score. The a priori seeds limit analysis to regions where one expects that iFC will relate to BI; thus, a data-driven analysis is important to assess whether findings from a priori analyses are representative of underlying patterns in the data or are specific to the confirmatory a priori approach.

To derive data-driven seeds, first, global iFC (or “intrinsic connectivity contrast”) maps were computed for each participant. These maps contain, for each voxel, a measure of the mean absolute value of the strength of iFC between the voxel and all other voxels in the brain, providing an index of global iFC strength for the voxel (similar to the approach taken with the AFNI function 3dTcorrMap). Second, data-derived seed regions were generated from a whole-brain analysis searching for clusters where global iFC significantly relates to BI controlling for age and mean FD.

iFC RELATED TO BI CONTROLLING FOR AGE AND MOVEMENT
For a priori and global iFC seeds, seed-to-voxel functional connectivity analyses were performed in the CONN toolbox yielding whole-brain maps of Fisher-Z transformed coefficients of correlation between the seed and voxel time courses for each participant. To reveal regions where connectivity with the seed region is related to BI, these maps were entered into whole-brain regression with continuous BI score as a regressor, controlling for age and mean FD (to ensure findings are not accounted for by between-subject variation in micromovement). For comparison, additional analyses are reported in the Supporting Information showing patterns of iFC related to social anxiety symptoms.

MODERATION ANALYSES
To assess the hypothesis that higher BI individuals would show a stronger relation between anxiety symptoms and altered insula–ACC connectivity, we conducted moderation analyses in the PROCESS SPSS macro for extracted clusters in dACC and vmPFC, as these are regions where insula iFC showed the strongest differences as a function of BI. Social Phobia symptoms were used as the dependent variable,
RESULTS

INSULA–ACC iFC TOPOGRAPHY

The LOESS curves revealed differences in insula–ACC iFC topography for BI versus BN participants, with BN children showing a curvilinear pattern of iFC, paralleling expected patterns of SN connectivity (positive to dACC and negative to vmPFC). This pattern is significantly diminished and flattened in BI children, particularly for right inferior ACC ROIs (Fig. 1; Supporting Information Fig. S2). Insula–ACC iFC topography was highly distinct from FEF–ACC iFC topography (Supporting Information Fig. S3), for which LOESS modeling revealed a linear pattern among BN participants, and no significant differences between BI and BN groups.

GLOBAL iFC NETWORKS

In the whole-brain analysis to reveal seed regions where global iFC related to BI, BI level was linked to increased global iFC in frontal pole and a left occipital/cerebellar cluster, and diminished global iFC in right somatosensory cortex (SMS; Supporting Information Fig. S4). In the whole-brain analysis of BI-associated connectivity with these global iFC seed regions, BI level was linked to increased vmPFC connectivity (with SMS seed) and reduced insula and dACC connectivity (with SMS and frontal pole seeds; Table 2 and Supporting Information Fig. S5).

BI MODERATION OF iFC–ANXIETY ASSOCIATION

BI score moderated the relation between insula–vmPFC connectivity and anxiety symptoms, with higher BI associated with a stronger positive relation between insula–vmPFC connectivity and social phobia ($F(1,37) = 7.85, P = .008, R^2$ change = .12; Fig. 3). There was no relation between insula–dACC iFC and anxiety symptoms, and no moderation by BI ($P$’s > .30).

DISCUSSION

In this first examination of intrinsic brain organization patterns related to BI in childhood, we find across analytic approaches that risk for social anxiety is related to perturbations in iFC with limbic and prefrontal regions. Specifically, (1) the topographic pattern of salience network connectivity varied as a function of BI, (2) BI was related to increased connectivity between putative “salience processing” regions (amygdala and insula) and putative internal processing regions (vmPFC), and (3) insula–vmPFC connectivity was related to social anxiety symptoms only for children with the highest levels of BI. These findings suggest that increased coupling of intrinsic brain networks that support processing salient and internally relevant information is evident in children at risk for social anxiety. This is consistent with the notion that an “internal shift” in brain organization may influence the progression from childhood BI to later anxiety problems.

SALIENCE NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

Typically, the salience network is thought to filter information from the sensory milieu in support of goal-directed behavior.$^{[42,60–63]}$ Insula fluctuations are typically anticorrelated with default mode fluctuations, an asynchrony that may function to minimize the intrusion of internal, default-network processes into goal-directed functioning.$^{[64]}$ Here, we found that individuals higher...
### TABLE 2. Seed-based iFC networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed Cluster label</th>
<th>Voxels</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Amygdala BL L</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ PCC</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-52</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ vmPFC</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amygdala Ce L</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dACC</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Insula R</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ vmPFC</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Putamen R</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Motor R</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Putamen L</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PCC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ dlPFC L</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>-60</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ SFG L</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ MTG L</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>-69</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ vlPFC L</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>-51</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ MFG L</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>-34</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SMS R</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>+ vmPFC</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Insula/dACC R</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Insula R</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inferior occipito-temporal L</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td>-73</td>
<td>-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Lateral occipital L</td>
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<td>-85</td>
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<td>- IPL L</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>-57</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dlPFC L</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frontal pole</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dlPFC/insula L</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>-37</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dlPFC R</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cerebellum L</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>-55</td>
<td>-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- IFG/opercula R</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Supramarginal L</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>-73</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Supramarginal R</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-55</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dACC L</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occipital/ cerebellar</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>+ Temporal pole</td>
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<td>146</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ Frontal pole</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regions where connectivity with seed regions (bold) relates to BI (a priori seeds italicized, global iFC seeds nonitalicized). Positive (+) or negative (−) cluster labels indicate direction of relation between BI and iFC.

In BI have increased insula, amygdala, and somatosensory cortex connectivity with typical DMN regions of vmPFC and PCC, and diminished connectivity with typical SN regions of dACC and dorsal striatum. The topographical organization of insula connectivity across the medial prefrontal cortex captures this disruption in SN organization; BI children had a shift in SN topology, marked by a decrease in insula–dACC connectivity and increase in insula–vmPFC connectivity, relative to BN children. This can also been seen as a “flattening” of SN topography as the pattern of iFC across the medial PFC in BI children had significantly less differentiation, marked by a more linear pattern with minimal slope.

The shift in SN organization in BI children is consistent with research showing a disruption in filtering salient stimuli (e.g., threats and rewards), which seems to be biased toward internally relevant information in socially inhibited individuals. Prior studies have shown that BI is related to biased attention and neural responses to threat, novelty, and reward, which are exacerbated by contexts in which stimuli have increased self-relevance (i.e., are contingent on the participant’s behavior). Blackford and colleagues also reported increased connectivity of SN and DMN regions in socially inhibited adults. Following the insula model of anxiety, it seems that altered connectivity of the salience network, perhaps marked by an “internal shift,” has a central role in inhibited social behavior.

One interpretation of increased connectivity between salience processing and internal processing regions suggests that there is a heightened sensitivity to, or hypervigilance for, internally relevant information such as threats, rewards, social feedback, or intrusive internal experiences (e.g., thoughts, emotions, or sensations) in BI. Typically, hypervigilance is used in reference to behavioral analyses (e.g., attention bias to threat), but
Figure 2. A priori network iFC related to BI. Whole-brain seed-to-voxel analyses examining where connectivity with the seed region related to BI score, controlling for age and movement. All results corrected for multiple comparisons at clusterwise FDR $P < .05$ (voxelwise $P < .005$). Top: Regions where BI related to greater iFC with left basolateral amygdala (red) and reduced iFC with left centromedial amygdala (blue). No other amygdala subregions exhibited connectivity related to BI. Middle: Regions where BI related to greater insula iFC (red; single vmPFC cluster overlapping medial orbitofrontal cortex, ventral ACC, and nucleus accumbens) and reduced insula iFC (blue; right motor, bilateral putamen). Bottom: Regions where BI related to greater iFC with PCC.

may also apply at the neural level. In this case, the internal shift in SN connectivity in BI children may reduce thresholds for activation in “internal processing” regions not typically involved in SN function.\textsuperscript{[40, 69]} The concomitant reduction in insula connectivity with regions involved in goal-directed motivation (dACC and dorsal striatum)\textsuperscript{[70]} may further contribute to a disruption in processing salient information.

The notion of an internally hypervigilant pattern of SN organization in BI children is consistent with the approach-avoidance conflict model of developmental risk for anxiety\textsuperscript{[30]} and the insula model of anxiety.\textsuperscript{[68]} Although children typically show increased social approach motivation as they enter adolescence, the approach-avoidance model notes that BI children also exhibit enhanced sensitivity to self-relevant information, including feedback from peers and social signals of potential threat, leading to an approach-avoidance conflict.\textsuperscript{[19, 30, 32]} Our findings suggest a possible underlying neural mechanism for this conflict, which may arise and persist due to an internally hypervigilant pattern of intrinsic brain network organization.\textsuperscript{[60, 68]}

It is worth noting that although it is not clear whether BI is a distinct phenomenon from pediatric or prodromal social anxiety disorder,\textsuperscript{[17]} findings from the present study are consistent with the overall network of frontolimbic regions that has been linked to clinical anxiety and developmental risk.\textsuperscript{[71–74]} However, our exploratory analyses of connectivity related to anxiety symptoms (see Supporting Information) finds limited overlap between neural correlates of BI and social phobia or total anxiety symptoms, suggesting that the present findings may be specific to BI. One exception was found in similar cross-network connectivity of default mode and executive regions for both the BI and social phobia symptoms analyses. These findings suggest that follow-up study is warranted to directly address this issue, which may reveal both similarities and differences in the

Depression and Anxiety
neural correlates of childhood BI and specific forms of anxiety.

Further study will also be needed to determine the underlying nature of differences in findings across studies of clinical diagnoses of anxiety and anxiety risk (e.g., whether they are due to differences in samples and methods, or true differences in clinical versus at-risk populations), and whether the present findings of altered SN topography extend to clinical anxiety in children and adults. The present results point toward the need for longitudinal studies to determine the stability of the present findings across ages and methods of assessing BI, as well as to assess whether developmental trajectories of salience network connectivity can contribute to the prediction of anxiety disorder onset. Although much remains to be learned about neural systems underlying BI and risk for anxiety, the present findings of disruptions in the brain networks involved in processing salient information add to previous data suggesting systemic perturbations in information processing across threat, reward, and social domains.

**DORSOLATERAL PREFRONTAL CORTEX CONNECTIVITY**

Higher levels of BI were related to (1) increased intrinsic connectivity of the posterior cingulate with dorsolateral PFC (dlPFC) and ventrolateral PFC (vPFC) regions, and (2) reduced connectivity of the frontal pole with putative central executive and attentional control network regions across lateral prefrontal and parietal cortex.\textsuperscript{[62,63,75]} Similar to the internal shift described in limbic and medial PFC regions of the salience network, these findings suggest the possibility that executive control networks may undergo a similar shift, marked by increased connectivity with DMN and reduced connectivity with typical control network regions.

**BI MODERATION OF iFC–ANXIETY RELATION**

Not all BI children go on to develop clinical anxiety; thus, it is important to identify which children are at highest risk. Here, we found that for children with the most extreme levels of BI, there were stronger relations between increased anxiety symptoms and greater SN–DMN connectivity. This suggests that those high BI children who also exhibit the strongest SN–DMN coupling might be at highest risk. In turn, the internal shift in SN connectivity may reflect a mechanism leading BI children on a developmental trajectory to later anxiety.\textsuperscript{[19,29]} Prior research has found that among adolescents with a history of BI, greater anxiety is related to elevated neural response to novelty\textsuperscript{[79]} and error,\textsuperscript{[28]} and perturbed frontolimbic function.\textsuperscript{[22,24]} Current findings point to a potential developmental antecedent for these previously reported moderation relations.

Although the present study is limited by its cross-sectional examination of neurodevelopmental risk for anxiety, we have shown here that the patterns of brain network organization observed in high BI children are also related to increased anxiety symptoms in children highest in BI, and thus may be an important biomarker of the BI risk phenotype. However, further work will need to follow BI children over time to determine what role these patterns may play in psychosocial developmental trajectories, and whether they can aid in the early identification of children at highest risk for anxiety.

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Figure 3. BI moderation of iFC–anxiety relation. Left: Moderation model. Right: For children with higher social novelty BIQ scores, greater anxiety symptoms were related to increased iFC from insula to vmPFC.
identification of at risk individuals who will go on to develop social anxiety. A second, associated limitation reflects our use of parent report in late childhood to characterize levels of BI and anxiety, and future studies should include observational measures. Specifically, although the BIQ has been useful in identifying BI children, additional studies will be needed to determine whether our findings extend to children identified as BI via multimethod assessment (behavioral observation and parent reports) in the first few years of life.

SUMMARY

Childhood BI was associated with altered patterns of iFC, marked by increased connectivity of salience, executive, and sensory networks with default mode network hubs. Children at temperamental risk for anxiety appear to have goal-directed salience and executive networks that are less goal-focused, and a resting state default network that is less restful. The blurring of internal (DMN) and goal-directed (SN and executive) networks in BI children may be a biomarker of early risk for anxiety, contributing to pathophysiological processes leading from shyness in early life to anxiety in adulthood. Further study of these patterns of brain organization and their development may provide an opportunity to develop intuitive neural biomarkers for identifying individuals at risk.

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Conflict of interest statement. All authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Depression and Anxiety


