

Psi Reinforcement of Stochastic Mentation - the PRiSM model of dyadic ESP

Results:

This study tested a proposed model wherein a receiver in ganzfeld protocol would show a mentation-reinforcing skin-conductance change when a sender decided their mentation was target-relevant. This would be seen whether the mentation heard by the sender was True-Feedback (TF) or False-Feedback (FF) i.e. the sender's decision initiated the skin-conductance change.

Based on the receiver's ranking of target video clip, there was no evidence of telepathy with only 24 direct hits (π = 0.49, $p=0.33$). However, the receiver did show a skin-conductance response when the sender thought the mentation was relevant to the target. The apparent discrepancy highlights the low correlation ($\rho=-0.11$) between the target-relevance of the receiver's mentation and the final rank given to the target, implying that there are limitations to the standard ganzfeld protocol for producing reliable telepathy effects.

Correlations were found between variance of the local magnetic field and telepathy success (Overall: Spearman $r=+0.122$, $p=0.12$; FF: $r=+0.194$, $p=0.09$; TF: $r=-0.239$, $p=0.05$). This was in the predicted direction overall and for the FF, but reversed for TF, possibly implying that different primary processes operate in each condition (negative correlations are more usually observed in micro-PK studies). A predicted positive correlation with magnetic field intensity was also found (Overall: $r=-0.255$, $p=0.08$; FF: $r=-0.300$, $p=0.02$; TF: $r=-0.209$, $p=0.08$). 42 of the receivers were also measured to see their skin-conductance responses to an applied magnetic field.

Although overall they showed the expected slight increase in the variance of skin conductance, there were no significant correlations between this and telepathy success.

Published Work:

Stevens, P. (2004). Experimental evaluation of a feedback-reinforcement model for dyadic ESP. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 68, 65-92

Stevens, P. (2002). Can we differentiate between ESP and Imagination? *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 66.4: 239-246

Researcher's Contacts:

Dr. Paul Stevens
University of Bournemouth
UK