

## **Further Investigations of the *I Ching*: reliability and replication studies**

### **Results:**

The *I Ching* is an ancient Chinese system of divination. The user throws three coins, six times, to generate one of 64 possible six-line symbols or hexagrams, and then consults the associated divinatory reading. It is conjectured that the *I Ching* process is underscored by a paranormal process the cause of which is likely to be the individual user. Past research has produced mixed results—in five studies, effects have ranged from chance, to significantly above chance, but no effect significantly below chance has been found. In a study by L. Storm (2006) it was theorised that hexagram targeting may accord with the participant's time perspective—a present time perspective (PTP) refers to immediate events; a future time perspective (FTP) refers to what fate has in store.

PTP and FTP types are determined from scores on the Time Perspective Inventory (Zimbardo & Boyd, 1999). In Storm's (2006) study and the present study it was hypothesised that PTP types prefer first-hexagrams, and FTP types prefer second hexagrams. Storm (2006) produced results that were in the directions hypothesized. In this replication study ( $N = 150$ ), hit rates for PTP types on first-hexagram hitting (30%) did exceed hit rates for FTP types (25%) as hypothesised, although the difference was not significant. The hit rate for FTP types on second-hexagram hitting (22%) did not exceed the hit rate for PTP types (27%). Hit rates were above chance on first-hexagram hitting (25.3%), but below chance on second-hexagram hitting (24.6%). Neither effect was significant. First-hexagram hitters rated their readings significantly higher (73%) on meaningfulness than first-hexagram missers (65%),  $p = .04$ . This effect was interpreted as fulfilling a theoretical condition that defines "meaningful coincidence" or synchronicity (Jung, 1960). A significant sheep-goat effect was found. A marginally significant aggregated hexagram hit rate of 27% across the six studies was also found ( $p = .072$ ). Two judges rated the 64 descriptor pairs of the Hexagram Descriptor Form.

Mean descriptor-pair ratings ranged between 60% and 82%. The experimental *I Ching* method was tested against three control methods. For the control methods, only 4.5% of the results were significant or marginally significant which could all be attributed to chance, but 14% of tests using the experimental method were significant or marginally significant effects.

Keywords: ESP, PK, *I Ching*, meaningfulness, psi, synchronicity

### **Published Works:**

- Storm, L. (2009). Investigations of the *I Ching*: II. Reliability and validity studies. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 9, 111-142.
- Storm, L. (2008). Investigations of the *I Ching*: I. Relationships between psi, time perspective, paranormal belief and meaningfulness. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 8, 103-127.

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