

Synchronicity and Psi: A Controlled Comparison

ABSTRACT:

Background

In 2 studies Stanford found a significant interaction: low-suggestible participants (Ps) scored higher on a dice-throwing augury than a standard ESP task and vice versa. Storm found suggestive psi hitting across 6 studies in a psi task modeled on the I Ching.

Aim

To compare scores on an ESP task and a similar synchronicity (SYN) task.

Method

60 volunteers completed 40-trial ESP and SYN tasks presented in counterbalanced order. For each trial, 1 of 4 rectangles was randomly assigned as the target. For SYN, Ps chose which of 4 I Ching-like messages was most personally meaningful and then rated all 4 on this dimension. For ESP, the messages were invisible and Ps were told to use ESP to select the target.

Results

Scores on both tasks were nonsignificant and did not differ significantly from each other. In both tasks, the higher the initial confidence and the greater the decline in confidence during the session the lower the paranormality score. Among Ps who did the SYN task first, there was a negative correlation between the average meaningfulness rating of all 4 messages and SYN scores, offset by a positive correlation between these ratings and ESP scores. Meaningfulness ratings correlated positively with posttest confidence in both tasks. There was a significant positive correlation between SYN hits and average difference between hit and miss trials in how long participants waited for the "right time" to access the target message on the SYN task. Ps with a strongly internal locus of control (LOC) on Levenson's LOC scale scored higher on the ESP task than other Ps.

Conclusion

The above significant results, some of which reflect P task frustration, must be considered tentative pending replication.

Keywords

Synchronicity, ESP, locus of control, expectation, meaningfulness

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