

Seeking the Intuition Response: Exploring the Human Electrodermal ‘Presponse’ as a Reliable Indicator of Precognitive Intuition

Results:

This project was designed to replicate and extend a series of experiments, known as “presentiment” or “pre-stimulus response” experiments, that provide evidence of human emotional system response *prior* to aversive stimuli.

To examine test-retest reliability 80 subjects were tested on two occasions in an experiment that monitored skin conductance while they viewed briefly exposed images from the International Affective Picture System (IAPS). Subjects also completed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the NEO-FFI personality tests.

With 64 subjects providing usable data, there was no overall evidence of a presentiment or pre-stimulus response, nor was there any evidence of test-retest reliability. Surprisingly, there were significant correlations between a subject’s pre-stimulus response and the MBTI Intuition factor and the NEO-FFI Openness factor, both of which have shown similar relationships in prior ESP research. No other personality factors showed any relationships.

Subsidiary analyses confirmed findings by other researchers that the evidence for pre-stimulus response is not the slow rise of tonic skin conductance levels but rather the accumulation of more non-specific skin conductance responses immediately prior to aversive stimuli. Also, analysis of the data rejected expectancy artifacts as a possible explanation for pre-stimulus response findings.

Published work:

Broughton, R. S. (2004) ‘Exploring the Reliability of the “Presentiment” Effect’. *Proceedings of the 47th Parapsychological Association Convention*, Vienna, 15–26.

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