

An Evolutionary Approach to Anomalous Cognition

Results:

Three studies of psi-timing and a number of studies employing a death-avoidance paradigm were completed. Psi-timing experiments generally consist of a behavioural component based on the timing of a key-press, which affects a complex process resulting in a hit or miss. The first study (N = 50, 36 trials each) was an adaptation of Braud and Shafer's (1989) methodology in which the timing of two key presses each independently generated a random number and the trial was scored as a hit if the numbers matched. In the modified version, the second random number was generated by a simulated key-press, making this a test of precognition. No significant results were found. The second experiment (N = 30, 25 trials each) was an attempt to replicate without significant deviation the original Braud and Shafer (1989) study and produced significantly more hits than MCE. The third study (N = 50, 25 trials each) failed to replicate this positive result. Six experiments were also completed using a novel death avoidance paradigm (cf. Morris, 1967). Insects (ants in the initial pilot study and red flour beetles) were placed individually in the center of the chamber of a special testing apparatus. A computer was used to randomly determine whether side A or B would lead to survival or termination for the insect. After a specified time, the insect's position was recorded and its fate, survival or death, was determined. Survivors were then placed in a safe container whereas those who were not so fortunate were placed in a container that contained acetone resulting in death. No significant deviations from MCE were found across the experiments in terms of number of survivors.

Published Work:

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