

The Manipulation of Ganzfeld ESP Performance by the Control of Implicit Percipient Variables

Results:

In stage one, 190 "mentation" transcripts of a body of ganzfeld data previously collected were analyzed on a number of variables measuring aspects of implicit attitude, emotional adjustment and perceptual style. A composite predictive scale derived from analyzing earlier data succeeded in discriminating hitting and missing cases in the new dataset. Supporting the validity of the approach. Then both datasets were combined, and new predictions were generated. Two variables, having to do with the approaches of positive self-transcendence and intellectualization were carried over to the second stage in which we tried to manipulate the levels of these dimensions and thereby gain some control over the ESP performance.

In stage two, 80 percipients and agent/partners were tested. Half of the subjects of each group were randomly assigned to either the "Enhanced" or the Standard/Control group. In the "Enhanced" condition we attempted to increase the experience of "Merger/Harmony" (a state of lowered personal boundaries and expansive well-being and sense of connection), and lower the approach of "Intellectualization" (a tendency to employ cognitive analysis). The Control condition was a standard ganzfeld. Percipients rated the target and provided post-session experiential reports. Contrary to our hopes, the "Enhanced" condition did not yield higher ESP scores, nor did it yield more psi-conducive aspects of experience as reflected in the post-session reports. Overall significant psi performance was observed in the form of an excess of extreme ranks. Performance was better in emotionally close sender/receiver pairs and in opposite-gender pairs. When percipients experienced the session in a more "altered" way in terms of lowered bodily awareness and loss of body boundaries, performance was better.

Published work:

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