

Testing the Psi-mediated Instrumental Response theory using an implicit psi task

Results:

Four ESP experiments were completed as a programmatic replication of Luke et al. (2008) using an implicit psi task with contingent rewards. Study 1 used a new computer program to control for artifacts. Participants completed a 'personal preferences pretest', rating the attractiveness of 15 sets of 4 abstract images. In fact this was an implicit precognition task, and the program randomly chose one of the 4 images as 'target'; participants with more hits than MCE were given a pleasant task as 'reward'; those at or below MCE completed an unpleasant task as 'punishment'. Nonsignificantly more hits than MCE were achieved; performance was unrelated to luck scale scores, but was significantly correlated with Openness to Experience [OE]. Study 2 compared intentional and nonintentional versions of the task; participants performed at near-chance levels for both conditions. Study 3 explored the construct of latent inhibition (LI). The 'preferences task' was simplified to control for differences in image attractiveness; sets of 4 images were replaced by mirror image pairs. Participants scored suggestively above chance at the psi task, though relationships with LI and OE were not confirmed. Study 4 focused on measures of individuals' sensitivities to rewards or punishments, and effects of experimenter-participant interaction were assessed. Hit rates were close to MCE, and unrelated to sensitivity to reward or punishment. However, ratings for participant relaxation, rapport, and positivity did correlate with psi performance. The four studies combined give a positive but nonsignificant effect size (Stouffer $Z = .51$); when combined with previous studies by Luke et al., the effect size remains highly significant (Stouffer $z = 4.12$).

Published Work:

Journal papers

Hitchman, G.A., Roe, C.A., & Sherwood, S.J. (2012). A re-examination of nonintentional precognition with openness to experience, creativity, psi beliefs, and luck beliefs as predictors of success. *Journal of Parapsychology*, **76(1)**, 109-145.

Areas of interest:

Psi-Mediated Instrumental Response, implicit psi, precognition

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