

Exploring the role of “enchantment” in psi phenomena

ABSTRACT:

Background

Transliminality (TLIM) and Paranormal Belief (PB) are mutually-reinforcing state variables that facilitate psi. Mental boundaries and psi thus ostensibly fluctuate per situational influences, which might include the experience of psychological “enchantment”.

Aims

Related studies tested whether enchantment fosters psi in receptive people.

Method

Study 1 measured TLIM, PB, Enchantment, and Psi in a sample of 707 online respondents. Study 2 used a paranormal tour vs control session to confirm the proposed “TLIM × PB × Enchantment” formula for psi via a pre-registered field study (n = 33) of enchanted vs disenchanted settings. Ad-Hoc Studies 3 and 4 designed measures of environment variables that may promote enchantment or psi and correlated these with three participants’ anomalous experiences during an extended immersive exercise at a ‘haunted’ site.

Results

Study 1: path analysis affirmed a loop between Enchantment and Psi, mediated by a link between TLIM and PB. Study 2: TLIM and PB scores, and the (dis)enchanted conditions significantly shifted overall correct hit rates on the psi task. Study 3: a beta “app” produces time-synced outputs that can be correlated with an embedded measure of anomalous experiences. Study 4: factor analysis showed that a space or setting is defined by its Affordance, Ambiguity, Presence, and Sentimentality. The immersive exercise found that the participants’ anomalous experiences were mostly congruency in content and location. Gestalt ratings significantly correlated with these experiences and prior witness reports.

Conclusions

Enchantment is a special mental state conducive for psi, and this relationship is mediated by principles of environmental psychology.

Keywords

Anomalous experiences, Enchantment, Environmental psychology, Paranormal belief, Transliminality

Published Work:

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Lange, R., & Houran, J. (2021). Replicable survey evidence for a ‘psi-enchantment’ loop. *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, 53, 140-156.

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Researcher’s Contacts:

Principal Investigator:

Rense Lange, Ph.D.
107 Carefree Drive
Chatham, IL 62629, USA
+1.217.502.4589
Rense.lange@gmail.com

Co-Investigator:

James Houran, Ph.D.
7041 Briar Meadow Dr.
Dallas, Texas 75230, USA
+1 817.542.7602
Jim_houran@yahoo.com