

effect size by selecting participants on one or more of the following criteria: self-reported creativity; prior psi experience or belief; and practice of a mental discipline. Psi targets and decoys were short video clips randomly selected with replacement from a pool of 200. We employed an automated precognition design for simplicity and security, and to add to the small database of precognitive ganzfeld studies. The experiment was designed by CW and the computer program was written by AT. As well as predicting overall significant precognition task scoring, we tested the assumption that the ganzfeld method elicits a psi-conducive altered state of consciousness. Based on Cardeña and Marcusson-Clavertz's (2017) findings, we predicted that higher target similarity ratings (measured by session z-score) would be associated with greater evidence of ASC during the session, measured using the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory and a time estimation task. Procedure. Three experimenters (ED, AP, & HR) each conducted 20 trials. The participant reclined wearing a red eye-shield so that they perceived a uniform red visual field. Headphones first played a 9-minute progressive relaxation exercise, then played white noise for 25 minutes. The participant reported their impressions aloud and these were recorded. After the impression period ended, the participant estimated the time duration of the session. The experimenter then reviewed the participant's impressions and, when ready for the judging phase, the experiment program was progressed to randomly select one target pool. The participant rated each target for similarity to their mentation on a 1-100 scale (where 1 = no correspondence). After the participant's ratings were submitted, the PCI was completed. Finally, when the participant was ready to view the conclusion of the session, the program was advanced and the precognitive target clip was randomly selected and played to the participant for feedback. Results. Twenty-two direct hits were obtained out of 60 trials, corresponding to a statistically significant 37% hit-rate. Therefore, our hypothesis that the randomly selected future target would be identified to a greater than chance degree was supported. Contrary to prediction, no significant relation was found between measures of ASC and session Z-scores. We conclude that further ganzfeld ESP research is justified because previous extensive research with the ganzfeld has identified moderator variables that can optimize effect-size and because the method maps on to common features of spontaneously reported paranormal experiences.

Workshop

Parapsychology and Transpersonal Psychology in Dialogue

Harris Friedman¹, Dean Radin², and Stanley Krippner³

¹University of Florida, USA, harrisfriedman@hotmail.com

²Institute of Noetic Sciences, CA,

³Saybrook University, CA

Parapsychology and transpersonal psychology were founded independently and have evolved separately as two distinct movements, although there is considerable overlap in both their content and in the interests of a number of scholars who are active in both areas. Harris Friedman, co-president of

the Association of Transpersonal Psychology, and Dean Radin, President of the Parapsychological Association, engaged in an informal discussion on the salient commonalities and differences between the two movements. Their focus was on exploring ways that the two could be brought into better alignment, such as including more transpersonal approaches within parapsychological studies and vice versa. Harris delineates the two areas by separating between extraordinary events and extraordinary experiences, seeing the former as more characteristic of parapsychology, and the latter as more characteristic of transpersonal psychology. Harris also sees them as typically using different methods, viewing parapsychology as tending toward more use of quantitative approaches vested in mainstream positivistic science, and transpersonal psychology as tending toward more use of qualitative approaches vested in a human-science paradigm. However, Dean thinks the main difference between the two is that parapsychology has focused on experimental methods (largely quantitative, but also qualitative) designed to explore the nature of both extraordinary events and experiences, with a goal of determining if they are what they seem to be and, if so, how they work. Dean also sees transpersonal psychology as largely focused on the psychological implications of these experiences for human mental (and possibly physical) health, and for what such experiences imply about human potential. Stanley Krippner, whose seminal work straddles across other areas, chaired the workshop, introducing and serving as a discussant for Harris and Dean's views, as well as presenting his own views on the relation between parapsychology and transpersonal psychology.

Posters

Parapsychology and Buddhism: Interviews with Vipassana Meditation Practitioners across India

Chetak N. Nangare

University of Northampton, UK, chetaknn@gmail.com

The analysis of Pali canon's understanding of psychic powers was one of the main phases in my PhD research at the University of Northampton. The main categories and themes found in the Pali canon analysis led me to understand psi better. The analysis showed the theme of merits or good deeds as the base for developing psychic powers. Based on that analysis further evidence gathering was important with living examples of meditation practitioners. I chose to interview 15 Vipassana meditators from India around the Aurangabad, Mumbai, Nashik, and Pune region of Maharashtra state. These interviewees are serious Vipassana meditation practitioners as taught by S. N. Goenka under the tradition of Sayagi U Ba Khin. This research is being done on the Theravada Buddhist scriptures known as the Pali canon. The follower of this tradition is strictly expected to observe the five precepts and meditation routine of at least two hours daily sittings. The participants involved in the interviews had at least 5 years of experience in this tradition. The aim of this paper is to emphasize the relevance of the theme of merits

Reproduced with permission of copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.