

The effects of receiver/sender sex pairing, emotional and biological bond, and photic driving upon ganzfeld ESP task success

ABSTRACT:

Background

There have been few in-depth examinations of spontaneous experiences that ostensibly involve extra-sensory perception (ESP). More thorough laboratory ESP research is also needed relating to brain activity correspondence and other characteristics of successful receiver/sender pairings.

Aims of the study

1. Analyse a modern collection of ostensible ESP experiences.
2. Examine the effects of receiver/sender sex pairing, emotional/biological bond, and photic driving in ESP tasks.

Method

Study 1 obtained reports of spontaneous ESP experiences from 94 participants. Study 2 examined ESP in laboratory conditions, using ganzfeld methodology with picture postcard targets. Sixty participants (30 pairs) each took part once as sender and once as receiver. A scale was used to assess pairing bond. Study 3 partially replicated Study 2, with 40 pairs of participants and video clip targets. EEG was recorded from the Fz site of both participants. Half of senders experienced stroboscopic stimulation at 6Hz in an attempt to drive theta rhythms, mirroring the state expected in receivers due to ganzfeld stimulation.

Results

Study 1 results replicated several earlier findings, including the predominance of female percipients and close relationships between the percipient and target person. One-third of participants had not considered a normal explanation for their experience, and many cases were weak evidentially. Across Studies 2 and 3 binary hitting was significant, but no other significant results were found.

Conclusions

Many ostensible ESP experiences may have non-psi explanations. Despite significant binary hitting, the laboratory findings continue a pattern of inconsistency in ESP studies and do not strengthen the case for psi.

Keywords

ESP, Spontaneous, Ganzfeld, EEG, Photic driving

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