

An Investigation of the I Ching Using the Q-Sort Method and a PK-RNG Design

Results:

A synchronicity-like paranormal effect was attempted in the laboratory by instructing 120 participants to construct a representation of their inner mental (cognitive/emotional) states using a Q-Sort Grid in which 64 I Ching descriptor-pairs were thoughtfully placed (i.e., ranked from -7 to +7), followed by the creation of an outer event using a Random Number Generator (RNG) to generate an I Ching hexagram with an associated reading that is rated for meaningfulness. There were four hypothesized psi-predictors: (i) 'pro attitude' measured on the Pro Attitude Scale; (ii) paranormal belief measured on the Australian Sheep-Goat Scale, where 'sheep' are believers in psychic ability, and 'goats' are skeptics; (iii) trait reactance (i.e., resistance to compliance; hypothesized to be detrimental to psi) measured on the Hong Psychological Reactance Scale; and (iv) Meaningfulness (of hexagram reading). As expected, Q-Sort scores were positive for sheep, and there were a number of sheep-goat psi effects, including a significantly high mean RNG-PK score for sheep. Meaningfulness correlated significantly with Direct-Hitting (scores of +7) and Binary-Hitting (scores of +6 & +7). Rasch-scaled ASGS scores correlated significantly with Pro Attitude and Meaningfulness. A significant reactance effect was found whereby the mean Q-Sort score was lower for 'reactants' compared to 'controls' (reactance compromises goats' psi performance through noncompliance). Q-Sort scores were lower for reactant goats, reactant sheep, and reactant 'indecisives' who are mid-range scorers on paranormal belief scales. More research on indecisives is warranted since their scoring patterns are unpredictable, suggesting that the sheep-goat effect is not linear.

Published Work:

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Areas of interest:

Extra-sensory perception, ESP, I Ching, meaningfulness, psychokinesis, PK, Random Number Generator, reactance, RNG, sheep-goat effect

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