

CREATIVITY, SCHIZOTYPY, PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES AND MENTAL HEALTH: Developing a new cognitive-parapsychological paradigm for the assessment of psi-performance in the laboratory

Results:

Filter theories of psi were explored in a modified Latent Inhibition (LI) paradigm (using a sender for psi conditions) which investigated the relationships between creativity, schizotypy, paranormal experiences, mental health and the processing of irrelevant stimuli. Study 1 found a significant LI effect but no psi effect. Creativity, positive schizotypy and belief in the paranormal ('transliminality') did not modulate the LI effect as hypothesised. However, meeting hypotheses, a significant psi-LI-like effect was obtained with highly transliminal participants. Study 2 explored the role of task complexity in a female only sample. The LI effect was present with an ordinary but not with a high masking task load. For the psi condition there were higher learning scores in both the ordinary and complex masking task conditions (independently significant for ordinary load only). Study 3 compared learning across different types of pre-exposure: no-pre-exposure (NPE); pre-exposure of perceptual stimulus (PE); pre-exposure of both perceptual and psi stimulus (PE+ ψ PE); pre-exposure of psi-stimulus (ψ PE) and micro-exposure of perceptual stimulus (microPE). Learning Scores for MicroPE only differed significantly from NPE. All forms of pre-exposure slowed rather than hastened learning. Only learning in the PE and PE+ ψ PE correlated significantly with personality measures, and high scorers were slower in PE. A cluster analysis supported the construct of the Happy Schizotype, who believes in the paranormal, is mentally healthy and creative. This profile (only) also appeared to show a significant psi effect.

Areas of interest:

Latent inhibition, implicit psi, paranormal belief, schizotypy, creativity, mental health

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