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EXPLORING THE CORRELATES AND NATURE OF SUBJECTIVE APPARITIONAL EXPERIENCES

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Background: Prior research indicates that Transliminality, boundary thinness, hyperaesthesia, somatic tendencies and synesthesia are associated with apparitional experiences.

Aims: To explore frequencies of differently appraised ghost experiences in addition to the senses and spatial locations involved; to compare ghost experiences between synesthetes and non synesthetes; to explore the psychometric predictors of ghost experiences; to analyse ghost experiences using grounded theory; to explore how synesthesia, GMF, emf, heart rate variability, and the output of a random number generator (RNG) relate to exceptional experiences in the context of a psychomanteum.

Method: An online survey explored the correlates of ghost experiences. ExE were explored using a psychomanteum procedure.

Results: Synesthetes reported more ghost experiences with a paranormal appraisal. Boundaries, creativity, interoception and somatic focus correlated with ghost experiences with a paranormal appraisal. Transliminality was the strongest independent predictor. GMF and local emf influenced heart rate variability. GMF correlated with the extent to which experiences took up space. RNG output correlated with the extent to which ExE were rated as taking up space. Post hoc analysis indicates that this was for synesthetes only.

Conclusions: Synesthesia, creativity, boundaries and awareness of the body play a role in ghost experiences. The psychomanteum findings are suggestive of interactions between subjective experience and the local and non-local environment, particularly among synesthetes.

Keywords: Synesthesia, Boundaries, Interoception, Psychomanteum, RNG output

Publications:

Simmonds-Moore, C. O'Gwin, C. & Fountain, L. (2019). *A Grounded Theory of Ghost experiences*. Paper presented at the 2019 PA convention, Paris, France.

Simmonds-Moore, C. O'Gwin, C. & Steder, M. (2019). *Using a psychomanteum to explore the nature and correlates of subjective apparitional experiences*. Research brief presented at the 2019 PA convention, Paris, France. [Manuscript also under development for submission to the Journal of Parapsychology].

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