

THE MIND POSSESSED

MAPPING SPIRITUAL POSSESSION EXPERIENCES



Findings (a): In a study comparing Umbanda mediums with a control group of Umbanda non-mediums, we found no differences between groups in cognitive style, personality traits, or quality of life.

Findings (b): Contrary to our predictions, there were no psychological detrimental effects of a lower level of bodily control over the possession experience.

Findings (c): A stronger sense of fusion between self & spirit led to better psychological and social outcomes.

Findings (d): Analysis of possession narratives from Afro-Brazilian religions and Christian Pentecostal groups revealed a highly contrasting set of bodily, cognitive, and emotive experiences.

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Film teaser of the project: <https://vimeo.com/430303432>

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