

**AIMS:** The present project examined individuals who claim to possess paranormal abilities. Historically, the study of this area (via consideration of mediums, psychics, spiritualists, etc) is important because it has influenced the development of parapsychological/psychological concepts. Although healthy/well-adjusted subjects often report supernatural experiences, previous research indicates that experiencers differ in subtle cognitive/perceptual ways. Accordingly, three-phases examined whether individuals with self-professed paranormal ability possess a unique psychological profile.

- PHASE 1 - Identified neuro/psychological differences as a function of self-ascribed paranormal ability. This method was innovative because it classified differences in anomalistic experience. A sample of 917 respondents (329 males (36%), and 588 females (64%)) completed online self-report measures.
- PHASE 2 - This study investigated relationships between inter-class variations in paranormal experience and executive functions of mediums/psychics, experiencers & normal population. A sample of 516 adults (226 males (44%), and 290 females (56%)) completed self-report measures assessing personal encounter-based paranormal occurrences (i.e., Experience, Practitioner Visiting, & Ability), Executive Functions (i.e., General Executive Function, Working, and Everyday Memory, Decision Making, and Emotion Regulation), and Belief in the Paranormal.
- PHASE 3 - This study examined personal perceptions (involvements) and comprehensions (interpretations) of self-ascribed paranormal abilities across 12 semi-structured interviews.

## **RESULTS**

- Latent profile analysis (LPA) identified discrete classes that categorised important variations in paranormal experience and ability. These represented common differentiations in the frequencies of Paranormal Experience, Paranormal Practitioner Visiting, and Paranormal Ability.
- Results revealed that breadth of paranormal experience was associated with higher levels of executive functioning difficulties for General Executive Function, Working Memory, Decision Making, and Belief in the Paranormal.
- Analysis revealed that self-ascription is a complex process. Interviewees narrated rich and detailed accounts that made sense of declared capabilities. They contextualised, rationalised, and provided evidence to support claims.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- PHASE 1 - Provided categorisation of sample subpopulations based on heterogeneous paranormal histories. These reflected the fact that people accrue experience in quantitatively and qualitatively different ways.
- PHASE 2 - Revealed differences between self-professed ability groups on Belief in the Paranormal, Proneness to Reality Testing Deficits, and Emotion-Based Reasoning. Specifically, paranormal practitioners possessed higher scores on these variables compared with self-professed ability and no ability groups.
- PHASE 3 - Narratives and interviewees accounts reflected individual attempts to rationalize and understand self-ascribed paranormal abilities.