

Pursuing Psi in a Non-EuroAmerican Culture: Behavioral DMILS in Bali

Results:

The grant funded two DMILS studies and a comparison of Balinese and American responses on the BVCQ.

1) One part of our grant continued our successful DMILS work from a previous grant, introducing changes to our protocol trying to understand the processes involved in behavioural DMILS. The first study compared the performance of trained meditators to traditional Balinese healers (Balian) in their ability to help a sensorily isolated person in their focus meditation.

A total of 40 runs were carried out, half with Balian and half with meditators. We found no overall difference between presses in the control condition (mean = 2.6, SD = 2.46) and help condition (mean = 2.5, SD = 2.21), $t(39) = 0.44$, ns, two-tailed, $d = .05$, power = .05. We also found a no significant difference in the psi scores between the meditators and Balian, $t(38) = 1.74$, $p = .09$, two-tailed, $d = .56$, power = .39.

2) The second DMILS study used trained Resident Interns in Psychiatry as Helpers. We also measured heart rate variability of Helpees to determine if HRV was a more sensitive measure of psi functioning than pressing a button. 80 runs were carried out. Again, there was no significant psi effect (Control (M = 3.07, SD = 2.57), Help (M = 2.91, SD = 3.04), $t(68) = 0.61$, ns, one-tailed).

3) A comparison of Balinese and American responses on the Balinese Volitional Competency Questionnaire yielded a number of differences. Most significant among these was support that the Balinese employ secondary control (the person tries to fit in with the world and "flow" with it) that is tied closely with collectivism, while American responses indicated primary agency (people attempt to change the world so that it conforms to their needs and desires) that is correlated with individualism.

Published Work:

Edge, H. and Suryani, L.K., "A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Volition," Florida Philosophical Review (Vol 2, No. 2, December 2002), 56-72.

Researcher's Contacts:

Hoyt Edge
1000 Holt Avenue, Box 2749
Winter Park, Florida 32789
Phone: (407) 646-2178
Fax: (407) 646-2445
Email: hedge@rollins.edu

Luh Ketut Suryani
Jalan Ganda Pura No. 12
Denpasar, Bali 80237
Phone: 62 361 462-306
email: cocorda@indosat.net.id