

Hallucination Experience and PSI: A psychological, psychopathological, psychophysiological and transcultural approach

Results:

An out-of-body experience or OBE is one in which the “self” or center of awareness seems to the experient to occupy temporarily a position that is spatially remote from his or her body. The experience seems are very widespread in the general population. Some studies show a close relation between the incidente of OBEs and their psychological correlates, especially personality variables, absorption, and dissociative experiences. Six specific hypotheses are tested: Students who report out-of-body experiences have a higher capacity for (1) absorption, (2) dissociation, (3) fantasy proneness, (3) kinetic and visual imagery, (4) visual and tactile hallucination, and (5) cognitive-perceptual, disorganized and interpersonal schizotypy than non-experients. A total of 648 undergraduate students population included 76% females and 24% males, and who completed a number of scales. Data for experients of OBE were compared with data for those who did not (experients N= 132 vs. non-experients N= 516). The results showed a higher level of cognitive-perceptual, schizotypy, absorption, dissociation, fantasy and hallucination proneness, and visual imagery in OBErs than in non-OBErs which confirm previous studies. The statistical test found that the absorption and cognitive-perceptual schizotypy were the best discriminant for visual [F (2/498)= 81.08; p< .001] and tactile hallucination [F (2/498)= 88.44; p< .001], which underlie the differentiation of the OBErs and non-OBErs. This study suggest that the dissociational model of OBE, however the term *hallucination* has pejorative overtones in spite of the widespread occurrence of anomalous perceptual experiences in the normal population. Some subjects report beneficial effects from OBEs in an adaptive way.

Published Work:

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Parra, A. (2007). ¿Es la alucinación una experiencia normal?: Una evaluación dimensional de la experiencia aluciantoria en individuos no-psicóticos. *Actualidad Psicológica*, 32(359), 20-24.

Parra, A. (2007). Seeing and feeling ghosts: Absorption, fantasy proneness, and healthy schizotypy as predictors of crisis apparitional crisis. En J.Palmer (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 50th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association* (pp. 84-94). Holiday Inn Hotel Halifax, NS, Canadá.

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