ELECTROCORTICAL ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH SUBJECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH THE DECEASED

Arnaud Delorme\textsuperscript{1,3,*}, Julie Beischel\textsuperscript{2}, Leena Michel\textsuperscript{1}, Mark Boccuzzi\textsuperscript{2}, Dean Radin\textsuperscript{1}, Paul J. Mills\textsuperscript{4}

\textsuperscript{1}Institute of Noetic Sciences, Petaluma, CA, USA; \textsuperscript{2}Windbridge Institute, Tucson, AZ, USA; \textsuperscript{3}SCCN, University of California San Diego, La Jolla CA, USA; \textsuperscript{4}Department of Psychiatry, University of California San Diego, La Jolla CA, USA

Grant 94/10

Objectives: During advanced meditative practices, unusual perceptions can arise including the sense of receiving information about unknown people who are deceased (i.e., discarnates). As with meditation, this mental state of mental communication with the deceased involves calming mental chatter and becoming receptive to subtle feelings and sensations. The present study investigated six professional mental mediums to explore two research questions: First, we examined correlations between the accuracy of mediums’ statements and their electrocortical activity; and second, we studied differences in mediums’ brain activity when they intentionally evoked four subjective states: perception, recollection, fabrication, and communication.

Methods: Psychometric and brain electrophysiology data were collected from six individuals who had previously reported accurate information about discarnates under double-blind conditions. Each experimental participant performed two tasks with eyes closed. In the first task, the participant was given only the first name of a discarnate and asked 25 questions. After each question, the participant was asked to silently perceive information relevant to the question for 20 seconds and then respond verbally. Responses were then transcribed and scored by individuals who knew the discarnates. In the second task, participants were asked to experience four mental states for one minute each. Each mental state was repeated three times. Mental states were: (1) Thinking about a known living person, (2) Listening to a biography, (3) Thinking about an imaginary person, and (4) Interacting mentally with a known discarnate.

Results: In the first task, of the six participants, two could not be evaluated, and the four other participants scored higher than chance level (p<0.03 for 3 of the 4 participants). The correlation between accuracy and brain activity during the 20-second of silent mediumship communication was significant in frontal theta for one participant (p < 0.01). In the second task, statistically significant differences in electrocortical activity among the four conditions were obtained in all six participants, primarily at the gamma band.

Conclusion: Differences observed suggest that the impression of communicating with the deceased may be a distinct mental state distinct from ordinary thinking or imagination.
Publication:

Keywords: mediums, EEG, intuition, mental states, transcendence