

Os textos são da exclusiva responsabilidade dos autores
All texts are of the exclusive responsibility of the authors

IMAGINATION AND REACTANCE IN A PSI TASK USING THE IMAGERY CULTIVATION MODEL AND A FUZZY SET ENCODED TARGET POOL

Lance Storm

School of Psychology, University of Adelaide

Grant 62/16

Background: It is found that if attitudinal or behavioural freedom is threatened or reduced, a person becomes motivationally aroused (Kraus, 1995), which generates psychological reactance leading to a noncompliant attitude or behaviour on the assumption that freedom will be restored (Brehm, 1966). It is hypothesized that individuals who do not believe in psi or paranormal phenomena (non-believers) are more prone to reactance than compliant believers. Theoretically, a reactance treatment in the form of an opinionated communication, will raise reactance, which will remain high if no outlet is provided, and since there is a relationship between attitude and behaviour, we can expect higher noncompliant behaviours in non-believers under threat due to an induced change in attitude towards psi, leading to target avoidance and therefore psi missing. Storm, Ertel, and Rock (2013) and Storm and Rock (2014) have found support for this hypothesis.

Aims: Using a Picture Identification Task, the shamanic-like journeying protocol, following Storm and Rock's (2009a) Imagery Cultivation (IC) Model (i.e., relaxation + guided imagery), and a reactance treatment, this study seeks to gain insight into: (i) the psi-enhancing effects of IC; and (ii) the detrimental effects of reactance on psi performance (with special focus on non-believers).

Method: The precognitive picture identification task requires half the sample of participants to identify future target pictures after a IC treatment (controls receive no treatment). Targets and decoys (photographic images) are by May et al. (2012) who compiled a so-called 'fuzzy set encoded target pool' (i.e., images have fuzzy or imprecise criteria values when they are *encoded* according to 50 descriptive elements). A reactance prime is read by half the participants before psi testing. Treatment assignment is random. Thus, in a 2×2 factorial design, participants will be assigned to one of four groups: (1) IC/Reactance; (2) IC/Non-Reactance, (3) Non-IC/Reactance, or (4) Non-IC/Non-Reactance. All participants will complete a precognition trial with success indicated by a direct hit (where the randomly generated future target picture is ranked #1 by the participant).

Preliminary results: At this stage, participants in the IC/Non-Reactance group show high levels of psi-hitting than participants in the Non-IC/Reactance group. There is suggestive evidence of a sheep-goat effect.

Keywords: Imagination, Imagery cultivation, Psi, Reactance, Sheep-goat effect

E-mail contact: lance.storm@adelaide.edu.au