

Evaluation of alterations of consciousness and the model of pragmatic information in a ganzfeld protocol

ABSTRACT:

Background

In an experiment with high (Highs) and low (Lows) hypnotizables, psi z scores related significantly to percipients' belief of their success and their previous ostensible psi experiences; there were also moderate to strong correlations between z scores and experiencing an Altered State of Consciousness and other alterations, but only among the Highs (Marcusson-Clavertz & Cardeña, 2011).

Aims

The current pre-registered study had three main aims: a) replicate the finding of the previous study with Highs with a larger N , b) compare ganzfeld and hypnosis procedures, and c) test the Model of Pragmatic Information (MPI).

Method

Participants ($N = 35$) underwent two sessions of 10 min induction and 10 min reporting each, in counterbalanced order, one following an automated ganzfeld procedure, the other a recorded relaxing hypnosis session. The authors served as “sender” and “experimenter” in different buildings. Participants filled out the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory at the beginning and end of the sessions, and gave a rating of 0-100 to 4 film clips (one of them the target), from which psi z scores were derived, the latter were the DV for all hypotheses.

Results

Overall, participants did not score better than chance and there was no significant difference between hypnosis and ganzfeld. However for the ganzfeld sessions, z scores correlated significantly with Altered State shift scores (baseline – ganzfeld scores) and also correlated significantly with attentional focus and low arousal session scores. The pattern of significant correlations was generally consistent with the MPI.

Conclusion

Although the overall psi hit rate was not significant, a significant relation between psi scoring and experiencing an Altered State in ganzfeld was replicated.

Keywords

Ganzfeld, Telepathy, Hypnosis, Altered state of consciousness, Model of Pragmatic Information

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Published Work:

Cardeña, E., & Marcusson-Clavertz, D. (2016). The relation of hypnotizability and dissociation to everyday mentation: An experience sampling study. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 3, 61-79.

Marcusson-Clavertz, D., Cardeña, E., & Terhune, D. B. (2016). Daydreaming style moderates the relation between working memory and mind-wandering: Integrating two hypotheses. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 42, 451-464.

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