

Generating Psi with Optimal Levels of Transliminality – A Critical Replication and Extension

Results:

Lange and Houran (2010) constructed and validated a new measure called the “Business Intuitions Inventory” and found that “intuitions” in the workplace are related to transliminal processes, but the validity of the sample’s self-reported intuitions was not specifically addressed. Houran and Lange (2010) therefore examined the correlation between self-reported intuitions and the propensity to exhibit emotional and cognitive biases in the previously collected dataset ($n = 889$). The misattribution hypothesis was not confirmed; in fact, intuitive experiences were associated ($r = .38, p < .001$) with a lack of confirmatory biases. Transliminality consequently facilitates a confluence of unconscious information from tacit knowledge, pattern recognition and perhaps a “future orientation” that involves psi. Situational and motivational factors, akin to experimental effects in psi research, contribute to the process. Rasch scaling analyses found that transliminality and intuition form a continuum, with the highest levels of transliminality being associated with intuitions that are described as paralleling psychic ability. As a follow-up, Lange and Houran (2013) explored experimenter effects in a study with the Chinese book of divination the *I Ching* using four experimental groups ($n = 15$ pairs each) of extreme questionnaire levels of Paranormal Belief and Transliminality: High Participant/High Experimenter; High Participant/Low Experimenter; Low Participant/High Experimenter and Low Participant/Low Experimenter. Participants selected 16 of 64 hexagram-descriptor pairs, based on their emotional or cognitive states of mind. A “hit” was observed when 1 of the 16 choices would come up ($Pmce = .25$). The overall hit rate on Hexagram 1 was 34 out of 60 (i.e., 56.7%), which far exceeds ($p < .001$) the chance level hit rate of 25%. The probability of hitting on Hexagram 1 is greater in the High Participant and High Experimenter condition (13 out of 20, or 65%) than in the Low/Low, Low/High, and High/Low conditions. The finding of 13 Hexagram 1 “hits” in 20 trials for the High/High condition cannot be attributed to chance alone ($p < .001$). However, the observed “hitting” on Hexagram 1 in the other three conditions occurred essentially at chance levels (all $p > .10$). Statistically significant main effects of Participant and Experimenter were also found, although both effects are moderated by a powerful Participant x Experimenter interaction effect. The High/High condition stands out from the Low/Low, Low/High, and High/Low combinations, which are indistinguishable among themselves.

Published work:

Full Papers:

Houran, J., & Lange, R. (2010). A parapsychological perspective on a recent study of “intuitions in the workplace.” *European Journal of Parapsychology*, 25, 56-75.

Lange, R., & Houran (2010). Transliminal view of intuitions in the workplace. *North American Journal of Parapsychology*, 12, 501-516.

Lange, R., & Houran, J. (2013). Towards a replicable formula for significant I Ching outcomes? *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 13, 9-25.

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Area(s) of interest:

Parapsychology, Transliminality, Psychometrics

Researchers' contacts:

James Houran
4201 Meadow Dr.
Grapevine, Texas 76051 USA

+1 817 542 7602
Jim_houran@yahoo.com