

A Test of the Model of Pragmatic Information (MPI) using European Cases of Anomalous Experiences

Results:

A three-year study was conducted as the first systematic test of von Lucadou's Model of Pragmatic Information using spontaneous reports of RSPK-type Anomalous Experiences. The study involved collaboration amongst over 60 European centres for parapsychological research and individual researchers. Following 43 referrals, a total of 17 cases passed the initial screening process, and 14 completed the full study, six of which were in the 'documented' group. The Europsi project was successful in creating a network of collaborators active in parapsychology and clinical parapsychology, and facilitated communication amongst that group. The study website operated successfully, as the rejection rate was consistent with that predicted from previous research. Analysis of the two formal study hypotheses did not provide support for the predictions of the MPI, and it was concluded that this aspect of the research was of limited success due to low statistical power. Debriefing revealed that some collaborators reported a dramatic drop in the frequency of contacts from the public, which they largely attributed to the burgeoning popularity of amateur 'ghost' investigation groups and the ease with which the internet allowed such groups to be located. They also reported that in cases where the callers were in distress, they felt reluctant to delay assisting the caller by referring them to the study. All respondents indicated a willingness to continue to refer cases to the study website.

Published work:

Watt, C., & Tierney, I. (in press). A preliminary test of the Model of Pragmatic Information using cases of spontaneous anomalous experience. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 20(11-12).

Area(s) of interest:

Model of Pragmatic Information; RSPK; Theoretical Parapsychology; Anomalous Experiences

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