



Process-Focused Research:
*Investigating mediums'
experiences of communication
with the deceased*

FACTS:

- ◆ *Proof*-focused mediumship research can demonstrate the existence of Anomalous Information Reception (AIR) in which certain mediums can report accurate and specific information about deceased individuals under blinded conditions that control for all sensory explanations.
- ◆ *Proof*-focused data cannot distinguish between two major parapsychological theories regarding the source of mediums' information: survival of consciousness (life after death) and the use of psi (telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition).

Investigating mediums' experiences through process-focused research addresses the source of the information they report.

PROCESS-FOCUSED STUDIES

Title: Phenomenology I: A Quantitative Investigation of Mediums' Phenomenology comparing Mediumship Readings and a Control Task

Description: During this study, certified research mediums completed the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory (PCI), a 53-item questionnaire that quantifies 26 dimensions of consciousness, after a mediumship reading and after a control condition in which no discarnates were contacted. Significant differences between the two conditions were demonstrated for several dimensions of consciousness establishing that the mediumship condition is an altered state of consciousness.

Resulting Publication:

Rock, A. J., & Beischel, J. (2008). Quantitative analysis of mediums' conscious experiences during a discarnate reading versus a control task: A pilot study. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 8, 157-179.

Title: Phenomenology II: A Qualitative Investigation of Mediums' Phenomenology comparing Psychic Readings and Ostensible Communication with the Deceased

Description: In this study, certified research mediums were asked to describe their experiences during mediumship readings for the deceased and psychic readings for the living. We found several similarities as well as differences among their descriptions of the two readings.

Resulting Publication:

Rock, A. J., Beischel, J., & Cott, C. C. (2009). Psi vs. survival: A qualitative investigation of mediums' phenomenology comparing psychic readings and ostensible communication with the deceased. *Transpersonal Psychology Review*, 13, 76-89.

Title: Phenomenology III: Further Quantitative Investigation of Mediums' Phenomenology comparing Mediumship Readings and a Control Task

Description: During this study, claimant mediums completed the PCI after a mediumship reading and after a control condition in which no discarnates were contacted. This study was run concomitantly with Phenomenology IV (below).

Resulting Publication: Pending

Title: Phenomenology IV: Quantitative Investigation of Possible Relationships between Claimant Mediums' Phenomenology and Reading Accuracy

Description: During the eight-step certification screening procedure, prospective Windbridge Certified Research Mediums completed the PCI after each of their test readings. Correlation analyses determine possible relationships between their PCI results and the accuracy scores blinded sitters gave the readings.

Resulting Publication: Pending

Title: Phenomenology V: A Quantitative Investigation of Mediums' Phenomenology comparing Psychic Readings and Ostensible Communication with the Deceased

Status: In Progress

CONCLUSIONS TO DATE

Although previous evidence for AIR alone cannot differentiate between survival and psi, by adding (1) mediums' spontaneous reports that they are communicating directly with the deceased (e.g., Phenomenology I and III) as well as (2) their alleged ability to differentiate between that communication and their use of psi (e.g., Phenomenology II), and including (3) experimental evidence that the two experiences are in fact different under controlled conditions (e.g., Phenomenology V), it may be possible to arrive at an empirically driven distinction between survival and psi.

FURTHER READING: WINDBRIDGE INSTITUTE DISCUSSIONS OF PROOF- AND PROCESS-FOCUSED RESEARCH

Beischel, J. & Rock, A. J. (2010, April). *A phenomenological pathway to an empirically driven distinction between survival psi and somatic psi by research mediums*. Presented at Toward a Science of Consciousness 2010, Tucson, Arizona.

Beischel, J., & Rock, A. J. (2009). Addressing the survival vs. psi debate through process-focused mediumship research. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 73, 71-90.

Available at: www.windbridge.org/papers/JP73BeischelRock2009.pdf

Rock, A. J., Beischel, J., & Cott, C. C. (2009). Psi vs. survival: A qualitative investigation of mediums' phenomenology comparing psychic readings and ostensible communication with the deceased. *Transpersonal Psychology Review*, 13, 76-89.

[Phenomenology II] Available at: www.windbridge.org/papers/TPR13RockBeischelCott2009.pdf

Rock, A. J., & Beischel, J. (2008). Quantitative analysis of mediums' conscious experiences during a disincarnate reading versus a control task: A pilot study. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 8, 157-179.

[Phenomenology I] Available at: www.windbridge.org/papers/Rock_Beischel_2008.pdf

About the Windbridge Institute

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to study non-traditional topics.

We are interested in the capabilities of our bodies, minds, and spirits
and determining how that information can
best serve all living things.

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