FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As smart phones and tablet computers become more ubiquitous and technically advanced, new opportunities for ITC research are emerging. Most mobile computing devices now contain a wide range of sensors allowing them to measure and respond to changes in ambient light, proximity, position (GPS), motion, magnetic fields, etc., in addition to being able to record audio and capture still and video images. Hardware connections like USB ports and BlueTooth transceivers may also allow for the addition of other more specialized sensor packages.

While several ITC apps are currently available, the number and complexity of these apps will most likely increase. The Windbridge Institute is developing research apps to take advantage of this trend.

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About the Windbridge Institute

The Windbridge Institute uses traditional scientific methods to study non-traditional topics.

For more information about our research and for simple ways to get involved and stay connected, please visit:

www.windbridge.org

The Windbridge Institute
for Applied Research in Human Potential
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RESEARCH BRIEF

Interacting with the dead using technology?

Instrumental Transcommunication Research

Instrumental TransCommunication (ITC) has been defined as:

> "Communication beyond our known reality through instruments or technical devices."[1]

Specifically, ITC is the process of capturing the voices, images, or other aspects of ethereal entities (be they deceased people or other non-corporal entities) through the use of different technologies.

Historically, ITC technologies have included tape recorders, radios, computers, video tape, fax machines, and telephones.[2]

Recently, reports have also been made regarding communication through cell phones, email, text messaging, and instant messaging.

LIMITATIONS OF ITC RESEARCH

Although ITC contact has been attributed to the deceased or other non-corporeal entities, given the non-spatial, non-temporal nature of psi (i.e., precognition, telepathy, clairvoyance, and psychokinesis), these psi explanations need to be properly addressed before claims of transcommunication can be made.

In addition, ITC research to date has been criticized because (a) conversations may not be collected under controlled conditions by independent observers and (b) full details of experimental protocols may not be provided in reports of the phenomena.[2]

Recent studies by Windbridge Institute researchers analyzed claims of real-time ITC communication[3] and the use of traditional "ghost hunting" equipment[4] which have addressed concerns (a) and (b) above while maximizing controls and optimizing the research environment. These studies demonstrated that traditional scientific methods can be used along with new techniques and technologies to study ITC.

CURRENT WINDBRIDGE INSTITUTE ITC RESEARCH

Since different researchers report different results when employing the same techniques, there may not be a "one-size-fits-all" solution to ITC. Different experimenters and operators may have different motivations and abilities which are more conducive to one ITC technique over another. Thus, a multi-modal approach should be considered.

ITC Research at the Windbridge Institute includes the following techniques:

Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP): Intelligible voices found in recordings that have no known physical explanation.

Environmental Monitoring (EM): Unexplained changes in the output of digital or analog devices or sensors.

Deviations from Randomness (DR): Observed significant statistical deviations from chance in the output of a random system.

Random Selection (RS): Randomly selected and transmitted "messages" which have contextual or emotional meaning to the receiver.

Hybrid DR-RS Systems: Random selection of a "message" is triggered by a significant statistical deviation from chance in the output of a random system.

Video ITC: Quantitative analyses of video "noise."

Windbridge ITC Appliance:

The Windbridge ITC Appliance is a flexible hardware and software system that allows us to quickly and securely collect data using any combination of ITC techniques listed above. Data collected from these techniques can be mapped to "analyzer modules," the outputs of which can be used to drive a wide range of interactive experiences such as Yes/No responses, art and music creation, and real-time 3D simulations.

Applications:

Although the source of ITC may not be easily discernible, systems incorporating these techniques may have applications for self-exploration or as therapeutic interventions. However, significantly more research is required in order to understand the emotional and psychological impacts of ITC-driven simulations.