

APPLICATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

This research program attempts to address the potential social applications of mediumship. At this time, our main focus is on the potential therapeutic **effects on grief** of assisted after-death communication during readings with mediums (4) though we are also interested in applications in law enforcement.

References

Available for download at: www.windbridge.org/publications

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RESEARCH BRIEF

Mediumship Research Programs:

Information

Operation

Application

PARTICIPANTS

A medium is an individual who experiences regular communication with the deceased.

At the Windbridge Institute, our current mediumship research program utilizes mediums whose abilities have been demonstrated under controlled conditions. This allows us to study the phenomenon with participants who are able to effectively and repeatedly provide readings during various research protocols.

Upon successful completion of eight screening, testing, and training steps (1), the mediums are termed **Windbridge Certified Research Mediums (WCRMs)**.

INFORMATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

This program tests if mediums can report **accurate and specific** information about the deceased loved ones (termed discarnates) of living people (termed sitters) using anomalous information reception (AIR), that is, without any prior knowledge or feedback and without using deceptive or fraudulent means.

These experiments employ a fully blinded research reading protocol (1) which involves **five levels of blinding** that prevent cold reading including generality, rater bias, cueing, and fraud:

- (1) **the WCRM** is blinded to information about the sitter and the discarnate before, during, and after the phone reading;
- (2) **the sitters** are blinded to the origin of the readings during scoring; they do not hear the readings as they occur;
- (3) the experimenter who consents and trains the sitters (**Experimenter 1**) is blinded to which mediums read which sitters and which readings were intended for which sitters;
- (4) the experimenter who interacts with the mediums during the phone readings and formats the readings into item lists (**Experimenter 2**) is blinded to information about the sitters and the discarnates beyond the discarnates' first names;
- (5) the experimenter who interacts with the sitters during scoring (i.e., e-mails and receives by e-mail the blinded readings; **Experimenter 3**) is blinded to information about the discarnates, to which medium performed which readings, and to which readings were intended for which sitters.

The resulting accuracy data collected between 2009 and 2013 included 58 scored readings performed by 20 WCRMs and scored by 116 sitters (3). This study (AIRII) served to replicate and extend data collected during a previous study (6) and **provides statistical evidence that mediums can report accurate and specific information about the deceased** under fully blinded conditions that address all normal, sensory explanations for how they could have acquired that information.

OPERATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

This program examines the unique experiences (phenomenology), psychology, and physiology of mediums.

PHENOMENOLOGY

Because evidence for AIR alone cannot differentiate between two major parapsychological theories regarding the source of mediums' information [i.e., survival psi (mediums are *receiving* information *from* discarnates) and somatic psi (mediums are using clairvoyance, precognition, and/or telepathy with the living to *retrieve* information *about* discarnates)], investigating **mediums' experiences** addresses where they get their information. Taken together, (a) mediums' spontaneous reports that they are communicating directly with the deceased as well as (b) their alleged ability to differentiate between survival psi and somatic psi (8), and (c) experimental evidence that the two experiences are in fact different under controlled conditions (5), the explanation best supported by the data is survival psi; that is, it seems that **at least some mediums are talking to the dead.**

PSYCHOLOGY

Mediums, as a group, tend to have personality types that are **intuitive** (able to make connections among diverse information), **feeling** (concerned with harmony between people), and **open** to experiences (possessing an active imagination, aesthetic sensitivity, and/or intellectual curiosity) (2).

PHYSIOLOGY

During an **EEG** study, six WCRMs were asked to consciously enter into four different mental states including communication with the deceased. The findings (7) suggest that the experience of communication may be **a distinct mental state** that is not consistent with brain activity during ordinary recollection, perception, or imagination. Thus, the claims that all mediums are fabricating information or recalling facts previously acquired about discarnates are not supported.