

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PSI AND VOLITIONAL COMPETENCE IN A NON-WESTERN CULTURE

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Abstract

Over a hundred years of research in parapsychology has offered good support for the existence of psi functioning, but we know little about controlling psi production, and we have made scant progress in learning how to train psi ability. Importantly, in asking a person to affect a target or to guess a target, we are asking the person to engage in the use of volition, but we do not understand this concept very well. It has been a relatively understudied concept for over sixty years in psychology. For us to increase our control of psi, and for us to develop strategies to train people in psi functioning, we need to study volitional styles and volitional competence. Prof. Robert Morris has had a longstanding interest in psi and volition research, and he and Dr. Deborah Delanoy have been developing the Volitional Competency Questionnaire for the past several years as a first step to meet this challenge.

Balinese culture presents an excellent place to study a non-Western concept of volition, not only because I had knowledge of the culture and had already carried out investigations there, but also because of the uniquely rich and extensive literature on Balinese psychology.

The purpose of this study is to explore the correlation between volition, including volitional strategies, and beliefs about psi functioning in Bali by developing data through administering an appropriately re-constructed version of the Volitional Competence Questionnaire, as well as through interviews, so that we can begin to understand volition and its relation to psi more fully in a cross-cultural context.

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