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changes in the EEG (i.e. the Bereitschaftspotential) that start more than 500ms before the subject consciously makes the decision to move. We hypothesised that if the Dynamic Core Hypothesis is correct, then there should be a change in neural complexity at the time that the participant consciously decides to move and not when the Bereitschaftspotential is first observed or when the participant moves. EEG was recorded from 21 healthy participants while they made a series of self-paced finger movements and recorded the time at which they decided to move using a Wundt Clock. The EEG recorded was used to calculate the neural complexity at 50ms intervals from 2000ms prior to movement to 1000ms afterwards. As predicted by the Dynamic Core Hypothesis, in the gamma and theta frequency ranges, there was a significant correlation between the timing of the change in neural complexity and the timing of the intention to move. Contrary to the Dynamic Core Hypothesis, however, the intention to move was associated with a decrease in neural complexity.

The second experiment involved measuring neural complexity around the time of the recollection of specific autobiographical memories. Using similar EEG methods to experiment 1, it was found that, consistent with the Dynamic Core Hypothesis, neural complexity in the theta frequency range was higher around the time of recollection than during a matched control interval.

The main conclusion from these findings is that although neural complexity, as measured by the EEG, is correlated with changes in consciousness, the direction of change is not always what would be predicted from the Dynamic Core Hypothesis.

Título/Title: "Effects of distant emotions on the human enteric nervous system"

Instituição/Institution: Institute of Noetic Sciences, California – USA

Duração prevista/Estimated duration: 2003/01 - 2004/02

Investigadores/Researchers: Prof. Marilyn Schlitz, Prof. Dean Radin

Abstract:

Intuitive hunches, gut feelings and psychic impressions are intriguingly similar in that they often share a distinctly numinous sense of knowing something, typically without conscious awareness of how one knows.

The similar phenomenology suggests a possible connection between gut feelings, or more generally visceral perception, and remote perception, i.e. reception of information not mediated through the ordinary senses. Because the gut responds to emotional states, visceral perception may be especially sensitive to other people's emotions.

In an exploratory experiment, one member of a pair of volunteers was exposed to audiovisual stimuli with varying emotional content and asked to "send" the emotional responses to a distant partner located 20 meters away inside an electromagnetically and acoustically shielded chamber. The receiving person's gut reactions were monitored using cutaneous electrogastrigraphy (EGG), a non-invasive measurement of electrical activity associated with gut motility. The hypothesis was that receivers' EGG amplitudes would be greater when senders were exposed to emotional stimuli than when they were exposed to non-emotional stimuli. Results involving 26 pairs of adult participants supported the EGG prediction for both positive ($p = 0.006$) and sad ($p = 0.0009$) emotions. Alternative explanations, including physiological baseline drift due to relaxation over the course of a session, were examined and found to be inadequate, supporting the possibility that visceral perception may be sensitive to the emotions of distant partners.

Título/Title: "An Evolutionary Approach to Anomalous Cognition"

Instituição/Institution: Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit, Goldsmiths College, University of London - UK

Duração prevista/Estimated duration: 2003/01 - 2004/01

Investigadores/Researchers: Prof. Christopher Charles French, Dr. Louie Savva

Abstract:

An attempt was made to replicate Braud and Shafer's (1989) psi-timing findings and to replicate Study X in Savva's PhD series, which had resulted in a significant paranormal effect. Participants pressed a keyboard button that recorded the current time and used the number to seed a PRNG, which in turn produced a pseudo-random number between 1 and 6. The participants pressed the button a second time, producing another pseudo-random number. The two numbers were then compared and the trial scored as a hit (if the two numbers matched) or a miss (if