

C.C.PCA
Fyloc. Prof NG+TIB
cl No 0025 12/11/01
JL. QV. 0111

FINAL PROGRESS REPORT TO THE BIAL FOUNDATION —2001:

PROJECT: "INVESTIGATIONS INTO PSYCHOPRAXIA"

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR: DR. MICHAEL A. THALBOURNE

The Bial Foundation has financially supported me, Dr. Michael A. Thalbourne, and my Ph.D. student, Lance Storm (L.S.), over the course of the year 2001. The following is a progress report concerning the experimental and written work carried out on the project.

Experimental Work

Two experiments are currently completed and are in the progress of being written up:

The third of four experiments was constructed and involved participants who are skeptical about ESP, performing a 100-trial ESP guessing task on computer. It was expected that "naïve" skeptics (i.e., those who do not know about the concept of psi-missing) would continue to psi-miss, while those skeptics who are "sophisticated" (instructed that significant negative scores are evidence of psi) would score significantly close to the chance baseline. Soliciting participants for this experiment was made harder by the reluctance of skeptics to participate in an experiment on a phenomenon in which they do not believe.

The fourth experiment was a study with gamblers and non-gamblers (as controls) to determine if success at the gambling task was greater in those with the stronger pro attitude, and to examine necessary conditions such as belief in good luck and Jungian personality types.

Thesis Chapters

Currently, ten chapters of the thesis are completed and in the final stage of proof reading by the second principle supervisor Dr. Peter Delin. The two final chapters are at various stages of completion. The twelve chapters are entitled thus:

Chapter 1: Introduction to Parapsychology.

Chapter 2: Meta-Analysis in Parapsychology—Part One: The Ganzfeld Domain.

Chapter 3: Meta-Analysis in Parapsychology—Part Two: Other Paranormal Domains.

Chapter 4: The Theory of Psychopraxia.

Chapter 5: The Transliminal Connection between Paranormal Effects and Personality in an Experiment with the *I Ching* (A Replication).

Chapter 6: The *I Ching* Experiments (Additional Analyses).

Chapter 7: The Effects of Change of Pro Attitudes on Paranormal Performance by Naïve and Sophisticated Skeptics (A Pilot study).

Chapter 8: Attitudinal and Dispositional Effects on Goal Orientation During a Gambling Task.

Chapter 9: Paranormal Effects using Sighted and Vision-Impaired Participants in a Quasi-Ganzfeld Task.

Chapter 10: The Meta-Analyses and the ESP-PK Dichotomy.

Chapter 11: The States-of-Mind Scales: Further Investigations into Conditions Conducive to Paranormal Effects.

Chapter 12: Discussion.

Related Papers and Articles

Other writing includes papers, research notes, and technical notes on issues related to the project, all of which have been submitted to refereed journals for publication. These papers were authored or co-authored by Dr. Thalbourne and Lance Storm.

Articles Published in Refereed Journal

Houran, J., & Thalbourne, M.A. (2001). Further study and speculation on the psychology of "entity encounter experiences". *Journal of the Society for Psychological Research*, 65, 26-37.

Lange, R., Thalbourne, M.A., Houran, J., & Storm, L. (2000). The Revised Transliminality Scale: Reliability and validity data using a top-down purification procedure. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 9, 591-617.

Storm, L. (2000). Research Note: Replicable evidence of psi: A revision of Milton's (1999) meta-analysis of the ganzfeld databases. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 64, 411-416.

- Storm, L., & Ertel, S. (2001). Does psi exist? Comments on Milton and Wiseman's (1999) meta-analysis of ganzfeld research. *Psychological Bulletin*, *127*, 424-433.
- Storm, L., & Thalbourne, M.A. (2000). A paradigm shift away from the ESP-PK dichotomy: The theory of psychopraxia. *Journal of Parapsychology*, *64*, 279-300.
- Storm, L., & Thalbourne, M.A. (2001). Studies of the *I Ching*: I. A replication. *Journal of Parapsychology*, *65*, 105-124.
- Thalbourne, M. A. (2001). Broken relationships and claims of psychic phenomena. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, *1*, 56-60.
- Thalbourne, M. A. (2001). Measures of the sheep-goat variable, transliminality, and their correlates. *Psychological Reports*, *88*, 339-350.
- Thalbourne, M. A. (2001). The paranormal and its place in human relationships: Some hypotheses. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, *1*, 72-85.
- Thalbourne, M. A. (2000). Transliminality: A review. *International Journal of Parapsychology*, *11*(2), 1-34.
- Thalbourne, M.A., & Hensley, J.H. (2001). Religiosity and belief in the paranormal. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, *65*, 47.
- Thalbourne, M.A., Houran, J., Alias, Z., & Brugger, P. (2001). Transliminality, brain function and synaesthesia. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disorder*, *189*, 190-192.

Articles Accepted for Publication in Refereed Journals

- Storm, L. (in press). From three to four: The influence of the number archetype on our epistemological foundations. *Quadrant*.
- Storm, L., & Thalbourne, M.A. (in press). Research Note: Effect size in 'The transliminal connection between paranormal effects and personality in an experiment with the *I Ching*' by Storm & Thalbourne (1998-1999). *European Journal of Parapsychology*.
- Houran, J., & Thalbourne, M.A. (in press). Theoretical refinements on entity encounter experiences and transliminality. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*.
- Sanders, R.E., Thalbourne, M.A., & Delin, P.S. (in press). Transliminality and the telepathic transmission of emotional states: A pilot study. *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*.

Storm, L., & Thalbourne, M. A. (in press). Paranormal effects using sighted and vision-impaired participants in a quasi-ganzfeld task. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*.

Thalbourne, M.A. (in press). Transliminality, OBEs, and ostensible psi experiences.

Recent Positive Developments

On June 25th 2001, the Head of Department of Psychology, Professor John Taplin, announced the establishment of an Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit for the study of anomalous phenomena.

Dr. Michael Thalbourne was elected president of the Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research. He was also appointed editor of the new *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, which has received much praise. He was also voted Supervisor of the Year by the President of the Post-Graduate Student Association.

Lance Storm received the Head of the Department Special Award for his record of research publications, including a publication in the prestigious *Psychological Bulletin*.

Plans for November and December 2001

The remaining two chapters will be finished during November. It is intended that the thesis will be submitted to examiners in December 2001. The required two examiners have been chosen. When this thesis has been approved a copy will be sent to the Bial Foundation.

Financial Statement

Please find attached copies of financial statements relevant to this grant. Note that these statements are in Australian dollars, where the exchange rate was US\$ 0.50.

This progress report is submitted as a requirement made of the fund recipients, Dr. M. A. Thalbourne and Lance Storm, by the Bial Foundation. We trust that this report is satisfactory. Should any further information be required please feel free to contact Dr. Thalbourne.

Michael A. Thalbourne Ph.D.

Lance Storm B.A. (Hons.).