

140/04 - "The CinEgg project: Assessing the relationship between group consciousness and Random Event Generators"

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Abstract: This study builds upon previous research with hardware Random-Event-Generators (REGs), which suggests that the simultaneous focus of many individuals upon an emotionally charged event can provoke anomalous statistical fluctuations in the REGs. If validated, such results may point to a collective, tacit form of PK that affects objects in an indiscriminate, field-like manner, independently of anyone's intentions vis-à-vis those objects. Alternatively, however, the data may simply point to psi-mediated experimenter effects which are, by definition, goal-oriented.

Objective: The CinEgg study sought to assess the hypothesis of fieldlike PK, by running concealed field-REGs in movie theatres, and determining whether REG outputs fluctuate in relation to the film's "intensity", i.e. in relation to its impact upon movie-goers.

Method: The basic protocol involved two steps:

Film evaluation: a judge watched the target film and, using a time-coding program, parsed the film into *intense* vs. *neutral* periods.

Data sampling: the field-REG was placed in the movie theatre for several weeks, and, unknown to spectators, was sampled over the course of many film seances. *Control* data were collected from the field-REG when the movie theatre was closed, and from a second, *off-site* REG.

Hypotheses: To explore whether REGs "react" to the emotional or attentional fluctuations of spectators watching a film, two predictions were made, :

1. REG datasets corresponding specifically to *intense* film sequences would show significant departures from randomness in terms of mean and variance.
2. REG datasets, synchronized across multiple sessions of a given film, would be correlated

Results: Usable data were collected for three films, with 15-25 sessions per film. No significant shifts were observed in REG means and variance for either experimental or control conditions, and no significant correlations were obtained between field REG outputs when comparing across synchronized film sessions.

Conclusion: Among other possibilities, these null results may suggest that:

- a. fieldlike PK does not exist
- b. given the effect size associated with field-REG research, the study may have lacked adequate statistical power to detect patterns in the data
- c. the emotional intensity of an experience triggered by a film is not comparable to what happens in "real life", and thus cannot induce detectable field-REG effects.

Keywords: psi, Random-Event-Generator (REG), field REG, fieldlike psychokinesis (PK)