

The Source of Mediums' Information: A Quantitative Phenomenological Analysis

Julie Beischel, Adam Rock, Mark Boccuzzi
Windbridge Institute

Previous research has demonstrated that skilled 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 about the discarnates or sitters, in the absence of any sensory feedback, and without using deceptive means. The source of the information obtained using AIR, however, has not been established. The body of proof-focused data collected to date cannot differentiate among (1) super-psi; (2) psychic reservoir models (collectively "somatic psi") in which mediums use clairvoyance, precognition, and/or telepathy with the living to acquire information about discarnates; and (3) the survival of consciousness hypothesis in which mediums use "survival psi" to communicate telepathically with discarnates. Recent qualitative research, however, indicates that mediums' subjective experiences during mediumship readings for the deceased are distinguishable from their experiences during psychic readings for the living. In order to further investigate these findings, this study employed the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory (PCI), a standard retrospective phenomenological analysis tool that quantitatively measures 26 phenomenological dimensions, to assess the experiences of ten Windbridge Certified Research Mediums (WCRMs) during readings for living targets and readings for deceased targets. During each reading, the medium was given the first name of a target and then asked specific questions about the target (e.g., physical and personality descriptions, hobbies/interests). Both the WCRMs and the experimenter interacting with them were blinded to which targets were living and which were deceased. After each reading, the medium completed the PCI. During 19 of the 20 readings, the WCRM stated her impressions regarding the status of the named target (living or deceased). In 14 of those cases, the WCRM's impressions accurately reflected the status (74%, binomial probability, one-tailed, $p = 0.032$). In addition, six of the WCRMs were able to accurately determine the status of the targets in both of their readings. It should be noted that the WCRMs were instructed that the target for each reading could be living or deceased and not that they would be reading one of each type of target. A significant difference was seen between the living target condition and the deceased target condition for the dimension Love with higher scores in the deceased reading condition (living target: 2.65 ± 1.11 vs. deceased target: 3.55 ± 0.55 , $p < 0.05$). In the subset of six WCRMs who accurately determined the status of both targets, significantly higher intensity values were seen for readings for deceased targets (vs. readings for living targets) for the dimensions Positive affect, Joy, and Love (all $p < 0.05$). These quantitative data collected under blinded conditions reflect the WCRMs' qualitative descriptions of the differences between communication with the deceased and acquisition of psychic information and provide further evidence distinguishing between survival psi and somatic psi.