Recent Publications of Note

Etzel Cardeña
Lund University

Anomalous Experiences


From the abstract (see also Russ et al., below): Individuals high in the traits of absorption, openness, and acceptance as well as a state of surrender were more likely to have positive and mystical-type experiences, whereas those low in openness and surrender or in preoccupied, apprehensive, or confused psychological states were more likely to experience acute adverse reactions. Participant sex was not a robust predictor of drug effects, but 5-HT2AR binding potential, executive network node diversity, and rACC volume may be potential baseline biomarkers related to acute reactions. Finally, increased age and experience with psychedelics were individual differences related to generally less intense effects.


A long discussion of the foundational psychoanalyst Ferenczi, who was cognizant of psychical research and proposed that exposure to trauma can give rise to a propensity to experience anomalous experiences and cognition.

---

1 This regular feature summarizes recent papers of interest. If you want to recommend a paper, please send me a note with bibliographic information to etzel.cardena@psy.lu.se

Explores the relation between fantasy proneness (FP) and dissociation and concludes that “thought intrusion mediated the relationship between FP and dissociation, while suppression effort did not.”


From the abstract: Effect sizes were large ($r_s > .50$) for [the relation between fantasy proneness and] hallucinatory experiences, magical ideation, perceptual aberration, dissociation, and excessive daydreaming. Contrary to the popular idea that childhood trauma is a prominent precursor of fantasy proneness, we found that the effect sizes for self-reported trauma were small, as was also the case for depression, anxiety, and memory illusions ($r_s < .30$).


A panel of experts suggests terminological and conceptual guidelines to further the study of near-death experiences and related phenomena.


This paper presents “the core components of a Psychodynamic Psychotherapy focused on Anomalous Experiences (PPAE) based on three main steps: phenomenological exploration, subjective inscription and subjective integration of the anomalous experience.


From the abstract: “We spoke with 67 pilgrims… young volunteers and medical staff. About two in five reported a transcendent experience: some felt they had communicated or had close contact with a divine presence, while others reported a powerful experience of something intangible and otherworldly.”


From the abstract: “A state of surrender at the start of the psilocybin session most strongly explained MEs [mystical experiences], and a state of preoccupation most strongly explained challenging experiences. The trait absorption was a strong secondary predictor in both models, along with smaller predictors. Additionally, the occurrence of MEs during the psilocybin session explained long-term positive change.”


From the abstract: “[L]ucid dream frequency was not associated with poorer sleep quality or with greater dissociation but was linked to greater mental well-being. Moreover, most of the lucid dreams were reported to
be emotionally positive experiences and the majority of lucid dreamers did not ascribe any negative consequences to lucid dreaming.”


A call for a multidisciplinary, phenomenological approach to the study of anomalous/ nonordinary experiences. It is notable that this paper was published by the flagship journal of the American Psychological Association.


A qualitative study in which children/teens anomalous experiences were experienced as having healing and transformational potential.

**Anomalous Cognition**


A review of the concept of synchronicity and a call to develop ways to investigate it.


From the abstract: “This article explores the nature of psychedelically induced anomalous experiences for what they reveal regarding the nature of “expanded consciousness” and its implications for humanistic and transpersonal psychology, parapsychology, and the psychology and underlying neuroscience of such experiences.”


Experienced remote viewers sought to view targets determined either in the present or the future. Both conditions showed significant hitting, with the present condition showing a significantly higher effect than future one.


Analyses of 23 years of the Global Consciousness Project supports the hypothesis that events drawing the attention of a large amount of people produces temporary coheres in random physical systems.


A meta-analysis of experiments with mediums finds support from frequentist and Bayesian analyses that they produce more accurate information about deceased individuals than would be expected by chance.


A philosopher who has published on the arguments for and against possible survival investigated the recent and well-publicized case of James Leininger. He concludes that his investigation raises serious questions about the solidity of this cases as presented by investigator James Tucker. Responses by Tucker and James Matlock will be published in a forthcoming issue of this journal.