

Recent Publications of Note¹

Etzel Cardeña

Lund University

Anomalous Experiences

Aday, J. S., Davis, A. K., Mitzkovitz, C. M., Bloesch, E. K., & Davoli, C. C. (2021). Predicting reactions to psychedelic drugs: A systematic review of states and traits related to acute drug effects. *ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science*, 4, 2, 424–435. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsptsci.1c00014>

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-HT_{2A}R 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.

Boyle, J. (2021). From metapsychology to magnetic gnosis: An esoteric context for interpreting traumatic modes of transcendence in Sándor Ferenczi's *Clinical Diary* and Elizabeth Severn's *The Discovery of the Self*. *Psychoanalysis and History*, 23(3), 297-323. <https://doi.org/10.3366/pah.2021.0396>

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

Duarte, B. A., Joseph, A.-L. C., Falcone, G., & Jerram, M. (2021). From daydreaming to dissociation: An exploratory study on the role of thought suppression and dissociation in fantasy prone individuals. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cns0000304>

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.”

Merckelbach, H., Otgaar, H., & Lynn, S. J. (2021). Empirical research on fantasy proneness and its correlates 2000–2018: A meta-analysis. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 9(1), 2–26. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/cns0000272>

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 ($r_s < .30$).

Parnia, S., Post, S. G., Lee, M. T., Lyubomirsky, S., Aufderheide, T. P., Deakin, C. D., Greyson, B... Shirazi, T. K. (2022). Guidelines and standards for the study of death and recalled experiences of death—a multidisciplinary consensus statement and proposed future directions. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/nyas.14740>

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

Rabeyron, T. (2022). When the truth is out there: Counseling people who report anomalous experiences. *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.693707>

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.

Rahtz, E., Warber, S.L., Goldingay, S. *et al.* Transcendent experiences among pilgrims to Lourdes: A qualitative investigation. *Journal of Religion and Health*, 60, 3788–3806. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-021-01306-6>

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.”

Russ, S. L., Carhart-Harris, R. L., Maruyama, G., & Elliott, M. S. (2019). States and traits related to the quality and consequences of psychedelic experiences. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 6(1), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cns0000169>

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.”

Stumbrys, T. (2021). Dispelling the shadows of the lucid night: An exploration of potential adverse effects of lucid dreaming. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*. Advance online publication: <https://doi.org/10.1037/cns0000288>

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.”

Taves, A., & Barlev, M. (2022). A feature-based approach to the comparative study of “nonordinary” experiences. *American Psychologist*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/amp0000990>

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.

Thomas, D. (2021). A participatory research study to explore the healing potential of children’s anomalous experiences. *Explore. The Journal of Science and Healing*, Advanced online publication: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.explore.2021.08.012>

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

Anomalous Cognition

Butzer, B. (2021). Does synchronicity point us towards the fundamental nature of consciousness?: An exploration of psychology, ontology, and research prospects. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 28(3-4), 29-45. A review of the concept of synchronicity and a call to develop ways to investigate it.

Luke, D. (2022). Anomalous psychedelic experiences: At the neurochemical juncture of the humanistic and parapsychological. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 62(2), 257-297. Doi: 10.1177/0022167820917767
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.”

Müller, M. & Wittmann, M. (2021). Anomalous cognition in the context of time: Does the viewer describe a deterministic or a probabilistic future? *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 35(3), 442-569.

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.

Radin, D. (2022). (2022, March 13). Anomalous entropic effects in 23 years of continuously recorded truly random data: An exploratory analysis. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/uavde>
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.

Sarraf, M., Woodley of Menie, M. A., & Tressoldi, P. (2020). Anomalous information reception by mediums: A meta-analysis of the scientific evidence. *Explore. The Journal of Science and Healing*, 17(2). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.explore.2020.04.002>
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.

Sudduth, M. (2021). The James Leininger case re-examined. *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 35(4), 933-1026. <https://doi.org/10.31275/20212359>
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.