

Recent Publications of Note 3(1)

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Anomalous Experience

Buric, I., Farias, M., Driessen, J. M. A., & Brazil, I. A. (2022). Individual differences in meditation interventions: A meta-analytic study. *British Journal of Health Psychology*. doi: 10.1111/bjhp.12589. An important meta-analysis showing that meditation may have positive or negative effects depending on such characteristics as previous levels of psychopathology, interpersonal skills, and others.

Gandy, S., Bonnelle, V., Jacobs, E., & Luke, D. (2022). Psychedelics as potential catalysts of scientific creativity and insight. *Drug Science, Policy and Law*. 8. doi: 10.1177/20503245221097649. This paper reviews the impact of altered consciousness on different aspects of scientific and artistic creativity.

Kauffman, S. A., & Radin, D. (2023). Quantum aspects of the brain-mind relationship: A hypothesis with supporting evidence. *Bio Systems*, 223, 104820. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biosystems.2022.104820>. An eminent biologist and arguably the most important current PK researcher join forces to propose a model in which quantum mechanics may offer mind a role in converting Possible into Actual events.

Lebeau, C., & Richer, F. (2022). Emotions and consciousness alterations in music-color synesthesia. *Auditory Perception & Cognition*, 5(1-2), 76- 85. doi: 10.1080/25742442.2022.2041971. As compared with controls, music color synesthetes

[†]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

had more intense emotional experiences and alterations of consciousness, including time sense and body image alterations, when exposed to music.

Lifshitz, M., van Elk, M., & Luhrmann, T. M. (2019). Absorption and spiritual experience: A review of evidence and potential mechanisms. *Consciousness and Cognition, 73*, 102760. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.concog.2019.05.008>. The relation between being absorbed in experiences, “external” or “internal,” has been amply studied in the hypnosis literature and in this piece it is related to the propensity to have spiritual experiences across cultures.

Luhrmann, T. M., & Weisman, K. (2022). Porosity is the heart of religion. *Current Directions in Psychological Science, 31*(3), 247–253. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09637214221075285>. A paper related to the previously listed one, discussing the concept of mental porosity (similar to the construct of mental boundaries) in spiritual experiences (see also Cardeña & Terhune, 2014).

Marshall, P. (2022). Does mystical experience give access to reality? *Religions, 13*(983), <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13100983>. An expert on mystical experiences discusses how they may not only be personal but offer valid insights “on fundamental issues such as the nature of reality, self, consciousness, and time.”

Sawyer, D. (2022). What is the ‘unitive mystical experience’ triggered by psychedelic medicines and experience of? An exploration of Aldous Huxley’s viewpoint in light of current data. *Religions, 13*(1061). <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13111061>. A comparison of Robin Carhart-Harris’ REBUS (mystical experiences are wholly subjective, with no ontological referent) and Edward Kelly’s ROSTA (a mystical ontological referent need not contradict science) models. The paper points out that mystical experiences are consistent with research on psi phenomena and the viability of extended mind proposed by Aldous Huxley (and various spiritual traditions).

Timmermann, C., Bauer, P. R., Gosseries, O., Vanhauzenhuysse, A., Vollenweider, F., Laureys, S., Singer, T., Mind and Life Europe (MLE) ENCECON Research Group, Antonova, E., & Lutz, A. (2023). A neurophenomenological approach to non-ordinary states of consciousness: hypnosis, meditation, and psychedelics. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences, 27*(2), 139–159. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2022.11.006>. An overview of an approach that gives equal priority to thorough inquiry from the 1st (phenomenological) and 3rd (neuroscientific) perspectives. Disappointingly, it does not mention the foundational work of Charles Tart and other pioneers of his generation.

Anomalous Cognition

Charman, R. A. (2021). Empirical evidence of psi healing in mice confirms parapsychology, or psiology, as a legitimate scientific discipline. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, 85*(2), 91–103. A non-systematic review of studies proposing the reality of anomalous healing, including the recent work by Bengston.

Leverett, C. S., & Zingrone, N. L. (2022). Women and parapsychology. *Journal of Anomalistics, 22*(2). A special issue on past and present cardinal contributions of women with various contributors. It also discusses a “feminine” complementary perspective to the experimental one in the study of anomalous cognition and the paranormal. Can be downloaded free from <https://www.anomalistik.de/en/janom/contents/janom-22-2>

Mayer, G. (Ed.). *Single case studies in anomalistics*. Lit. An anthology with various contributions on the importance and examples of single case studies in the general area of anomalistics (a concept only partly overlapping with those of anomalous cognition and experience).