



Proof-Focused Research:

Gathering evidence to address anomalous information reception (AIR) by mediums

BACKGROUND

At the Windbridge Institute, our current mediumship research program utilizes mediums whose abilities have been demonstrated under controlled conditions. This allows us to study the phenomenon with participants who are able to effectively and repeatedly perform accurate readings during various research protocols. Upon successful completion of eight screening, testing, and training steps (Beischel, 2007), the mediums are termed Windbridge Certified Research Mediums (WCRMs).

Proof-focused mediumship research at the Windbridge Institute tests the following **hypothesis**:

WCRMs 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 or fraudulent means.

METHODS

Proof-focused mediumship research at the Windbridge Institute employs a 'quintuple-blind' research reading protocol which involves five levels of blinding that prevent any passage of sensory information and any use of fraud or deception (Beischel, 2007):

- (1) **the WCRM** is blinded to information about the sitter and the discarnate before, during, and after the phone reading;
- (2) **the sitters** are blinded to the origin of the readings during scoring; they do not hear the readings as they occur;
- (3) the experimenter who consents and trains the sitters (**Experimenter 1**) is blinded to which mediums read which sitters and which readings were intended for which sitters;
- (4) the experimenter who interacts with the mediums during the phone readings and formats the readings into item lists (**Experimenter 2**) is blinded to information about the sitters and the discarnates beyond the discarnates' first names;
- (5) the experimenter who interacts with the sitters during scoring (i.e., e-mails and receives by e-mail the blinded readings; **Experimenter 3**) is blinded to all information about the discarnates, to which medium performed which readings, and to which readings were intended for which sitters.

During scoring, sitters: (a) score **each item** in each of two readings (one target intended for them and one decoy intended for another sitter) for accuracy, (b) provide an **overall score** (0-6) for each reading, and (c) **choose which reading** of the two they believe was intended for them.

To date, 14 WCRMs have performed 28 quintuple-blind readings for 28 sitters; 23 pairs of scores were returned to the investigators; and 21 pairs of scores included usable data.

These data (**n = 21**) were collected as part of an ongoing study funded in part by Peter Hayes, the Bial Foundation, and members of the Windbridge Institute and were presented at the 2011 meeting of the Society for Scientific Exploration.

RESULTS

The item percent accuracy data (Fig. 1), the overall score data (Fig. 2), and the reading choice data (Fig. 3) all demonstrate strong statistically significant evidence for anomalous information reception (AIR; mean \pm SEM; $p=0.01, 0.001, 0.01$, respectively).

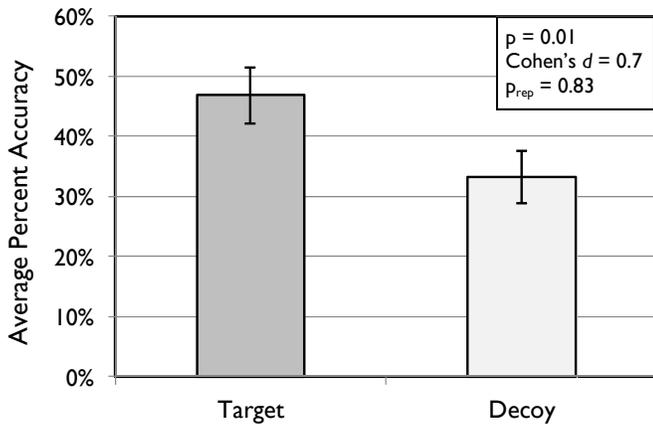


Fig. 1. Item Percent Accuracy

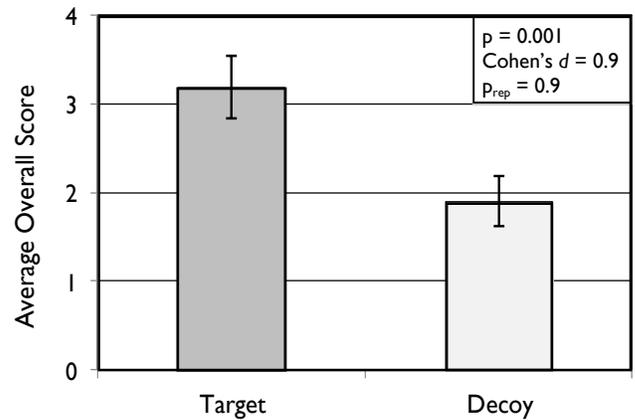


Fig. 2. Overall Score

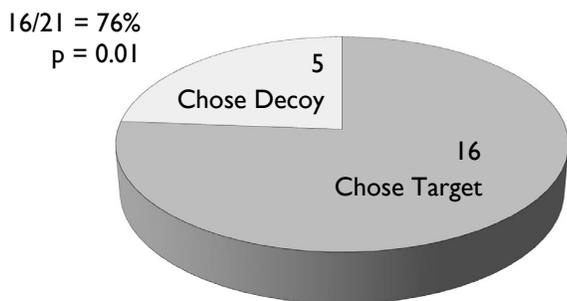


Fig. 3. Reading Choice

CONCLUSIONS

These data demonstrate that WCRMs can report accurate and specific information about discarnates using AIR. When combined with data from *process-focused* research, this *proof-focused* research begins to address the question at the root of mediumship research: Does consciousness survive physical death?

Further data collection is required to fully establish this phenomenon and we are presently in search of funding to complete this study.

References

- Beischel, J. (2007). Contemporary methods used in laboratory-based mediumship research. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 71, 37-68.
- Beischel, J., Biuso, M., Boccuzzi, M., & Rock, A. (2011, June). *Anomalous information reception by research mediums under quintuple-blind conditions: Can the mind exist without the body?* 30th Annual Meeting of the Society for Scientific Exploration, Boulder, Colorado.

About the Windbridge Institute

The Windbridge Institute uses traditional scientific methods to study non-traditional topics.

We are interested in the capabilities of our bodies, minds, and spirits and determining how that information can best serve all living things.

For more information about our research and for simple ways to get involved and stay connected, please visit: www.windbridge.org/connect.html