

Comparing Psi and Psychophysiology between Classically Trained Musicians and Non-musicians

Results:

This study involved 25 ganzfeld telepathy sessions with musicians (including people with five years or more of musical training) and 25 psi sessions with non musicians (those with less than five years of training). The experiment made use of a “sender” and “receiver” model in which the receiver of psi information was placed in a sensory restricted environment and asked to describe a randomly selected target viewed by a sender in another location. EEG data were collected using a 28-channel electrode-cap connected to NeuroScan SynAMP digital amplifiers. Data were recorded on disk and analyzed offline using NeuroScan SCAN 4.0 software. Skin conductance data were also recorded. Both subjects and experimenters served as judges.

There were three hypotheses: There would be an overall psi effect across subjects, musicians would score higher than non-musicians in the psi task, and musicians would display a distinctive psychophysiological profile as compared to non-musicians.

While we did not find overall significant evidence of psi, the effect size was within the range expected for ganzfeld studies with unselected subjects (30% hit rate for subject judging and 35% for experimenter judging).

No significant difference was found between musicians and nonmusicians, with a reverse trend identified, and no distinctive psychophysiological profile was found for musicians. A significant gender difference was found, with women scoring significantly better than men. Additional analyses are under way with the EEG and skin conductance data.

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