Generating psi with enchanted spaces: A confirmatory study

ABSTRACT:

Prior quantitative and qualitative studies implicate an "enchantment–psi loop," i.e., the formula of "Transliminality × Paranormal Belief × Enchantment" for facilitating psi. *Aims*. We therefore tested whether psi effects increase for thin-boundary people who are immersed within in-field enchanted spaces. *Method*. A preregistered design using vetted, thin-boundary individuals (n = 22) assessed enchantment, environmental variables, encounter experiences, and psi scores during six immersive experiences—three Enchanted settings (i.e., "sacred, haunted, and augmented" spaces) vs. three Disenchanted settings involving skeptical presentations. *Results*. Analyses generally confirmed expectations. We observed ~10% shifts in psi hit rates and encounter experiences for the Enchanted settings, although the overall effect was not significantly above-chance. Enchantment scores explained between 6% to 20% of the variance in psi effects across the settings, suggesting that the testing locations did not stoke consistent levels of enchantment in participants. To this point, environmental influences varied by Enchanted setting and showed positive associations with enchantment scores, psi performance, and encounter experiences. *Conclusions*. Enchantment is seemingly a psi-conducive state, which we speculate to work by boosting the effects of thin-boundary functioning. This research thus underscores the critical role of environmental psychology in the onset or phenomenology of parapsychological phenomena.

Keywords

Enchantment, Immersive experiences, Interactionism, Liminality, Psi

Published Work:

Houran, J., & Laythe, B. (2023). Phenomenology of AI-generated "entity encounter" narratives. *Journal of Anomalous Experience and Cognition, 3*, 335–368. doi:10.31156/jaex.25124

Houran, J., Laythe, B., Little, C., & Houran, D. J. (2023). Rethinking a ghostly episode in the legacy literature. *Journal of Anomalistics, 23*, 77–102. doi:10.23793/zfa.2023.77

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