

Meta-analysis of free-response studies, 1992-2008.

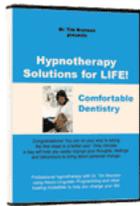
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Related Categories: Palliative Care, Parapsychology

Full Title: Meta-analysis of free-response studies, 1992-2008: assessing the noise reduction model in parapsychology.

We report the results of meta-analyses on 3 types of free-response study: (a) ganzfeld (a technique that enhances a communication anomaly referred to as "psi"); (b) nonganzfeld noise reduction using alleged psi-enhancing techniques such as dream psi, meditation, relaxation, or hypnosis; and (c) standard free response (nonganzfeld, no noise reduction). For the period 1997-2008, a homogeneous data set of 29 ganzfeld studies yielded a mean effect size of 0.142 (Stouffer $Z = 5.48$, $p = 2.13 \times 10^{-8}$). A homogeneous nonganzfeld noise reduction data set of 16 studies yielded a mean effect size of 0.110 (Stouffer $Z = 3.35$, $p = 2.08 \times 10^{-4}$), and a homogeneous data set of 14 standard free-response studies produced a weak negative mean effect size of -0.029 (Stouffer $Z = -2.29$, $p = .989$). The mean effect size value of the ganzfeld database were significantly higher than the mean effect size of the nonganzfeld noise reduction and the standard free-response databases. We also found that selected participants (believers in the paranormal, meditators, etc.) had a performance advantage over unselected participants, but only if they were in the ganzfeld condition.

Psychol Bull. 2010 Jul;136(4):471-85. Storm L, Tressoldi PE, Di Risio L. School of Psychology, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia. lance.storm@adelaide.edu.au



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