

Special Lecture

International Parapsychological Studies in Japan and South American Countries

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Abstract: The author has conducted research on parapsychological phenomena in collaboration with South American researchers. This paper deals with (1) distant healing intentions for autistic patients, (2) field RNG research on religious rituals in Brazil, and (3) psi-inductive training.

Keywords: parapsychology, Japan, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Argentina, autistic patients, remote healing, ritual, field RNG, psi-inductive training

1. Parapsychology in South America

Recently, young researchers in South American countries have actively participated in parapsychological studies. Economical situations in South American countries were unfavorable because of severe inflation; the maximum inflation ratio was greater than 2000% per year. However, recent economical situations are relatively stable in these countries. Furthermore, geological and social conditions in South American countries are different from each other. Catholics are the majority in number, and Spanish is the main language; however, in Brazil Portuguese is spoken, and in Haiti French is spoken¹⁾.

[Brazil] Parapsychology researchers in Brazil are spread over three locations—North Brazil, San Paulo, and Curitiba.

The most active group in parapsychology is Curitiba, who is based at the University of Dr. Bezerra de Menezes. Dr. Fabio E. da Silva, Dr. Reginaldo Hiraoka, Dr. Carlos Alberto Tinoco, and others, who have studied in this university^{2,3)}, have presently conducted Ganzfeld experiments and learned psycho-physiological techniques because of their interest in modern Japanese studies. They have held international conferences on parapsychology from 2002, which were supported by the university⁴⁾.

[Chile] Dr. Waldo Mora, Dr. Sergio Schilling, and others analyzed whether extrasensory perception (ESP) abilities are hereditary or not in 14 nuclear families in Santiago city⁵⁾. Furthermore, they tested clairvoyance and precognition, and investigated a case

of possession^{6,7)}. However, the research situation in Chile has changed drastically in recent months. Psychological studies at universities focus on applied psychologies and cultural anthropological psychology. Therefore, many psychologists in basic psychology fields have lost their positions.

[Argentina] Inflation in Argentina was very severe. The general situation of academic studies is tense. Alejandro Parra et al. conducted case studies and Ganzfeld experiments^{8,9)}.

In this paper, the author deals with three kinds of parapsychological studies.

2. Distant Healing for Autistic Patients

This study was conducted with the international collaboration of Brazil, Chile, Peru, England, and Japan from May 2005 to June 2006¹⁰⁾.

The experiment was performed under double-blinded conditions and included 10 autistic patients from a hospital in southern Brazil, out of which five patients were experimental and the others served as controls. The study included 10 healers from Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Japan, three of which were Japanese healers. Curitiba in Brazil and Japan are located on opposite sides of the earth and the distance between them is the longest on earth.

The effects of distant healing are estimated by the degree of the patients' recovery. The evaluation of the patients' disease conditions were done before, during, and after the healing sessions on 15 aspects covering relationships, verbal and motor imitation, verbal and nonverbal communication, activity level, and general impression. These aspects were measured by Childhood Autism Rating Scale, Cars of Schopler, Schopler, Reichler, DeVellis, and Daly (1980).

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In the healing sessions from November to December in 2005, two healers conducted distant healing on each patient every five days (i.e., for five patients, 25 days).

The analyses are still in progress (because of the delay in the schedule). Therefore, the details of the results are not obtained. However, a psychologist, who estimated the patients' disease conditions, stated that five patients showed remarkable recovery in their health. There may be a possibility of obtaining interesting results in distant healing.

3. Field Random Number Generator (RNG) in Brazilian Religious Rituals

Brazil is a multi-ethnic nation with various religions, although the Catholic population is in the majority. It includes people from different origins, for example, West Africa, and has indigenous population. Furthermore, the spiritism from France is popular in Brazil.

This study was conducted in collaboration with IRI, Meiji University, and the University of Dr. Bezerra de Menezes. We measured various religious rituals and group activities using field RNGs from April in 2004⁽¹⁾.

Generally, participants reach altered states of consciousness or have peak experiences at religious rituals or similar group activities. Field RNG experiments measure physical influences of unconscious activities (psychokinesis) using a small RNG device.

Analyses of 26 datasets (13 events) including Umbanda and Candomblé showed significant anomalies of the output Z^2 that occurred frequently

Table 1 Events

Ritual	Guarani Ritual, Umbanda, Santo Daime, Candomblé, Samaritano, Medium Healing
Group Activity	Table Turning, Yoga Class
Other	Djavan Concert



Fig. 1 Laying-on-of-hands in Umbanda (at Pai Maneco in Curitiba in April 2004)

and was significant (6 of 26 datasets were significant. $p = 0.0015$, direct probability, one tail).

Moreover, there were significant negative correlations between the Z values of RNG and the measuring time, event time, and distance from the center of the city.

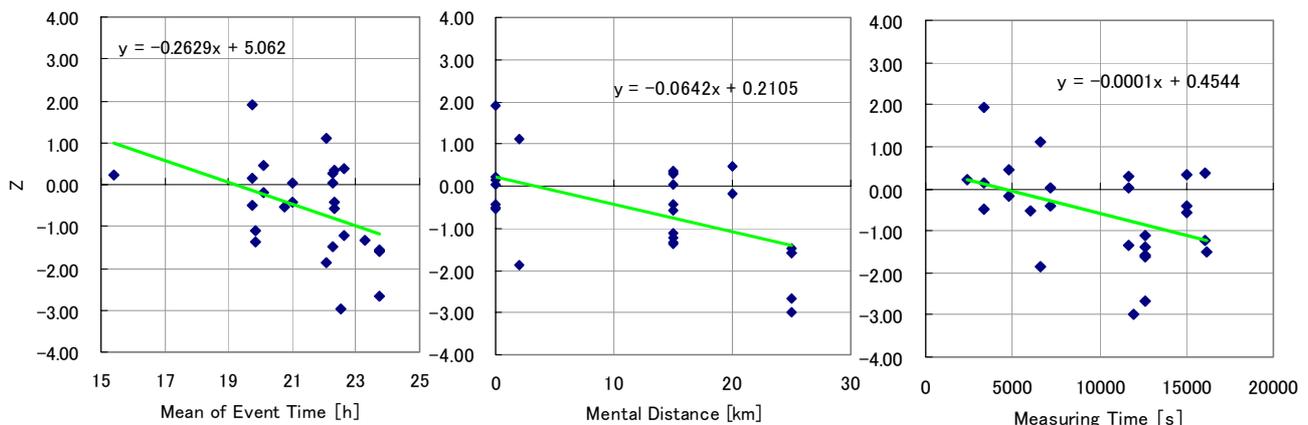


Fig. 2 Significant correlations between Z and event time, distance, and measuring time

4. Psi-inductive Training

This study was conducted by IRI and the University of Dr. Bezerra de Menezes. We performed psi-inductive training, which was developed in the 1980s in China¹²⁾, for Brazilian children^{13,14)}.

This method is a free-response training in which the targets are letters or figures drawn on a round piece of paper. The training was conducted at Yunnan, Shanghai, and Beijing in China, and many subjects succeeded in developing their psychic abilities. We used alphabets, numbers, and Chinese and Japanese letters as targets for Japanese. However, it is difficult to make targets for Brazilians because of few types of letters.

Through trainings, it is considered that the problem of population in the target pool can be resolved by using simple drawings. In addition, children showed better answers than the adults.

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