

## Report on 7th Psi Meeting (Co-sponsored by *ISLIS*) and Research Trends for Anomalous Phenomena in Early 21st Century

Hideyuki KOKUBO

*Executive Editor & Managing Director, ISLIS (Chiba, Japan)  
Research Director, International Research Institute (Chiba, Japan)*

**Abstract:** The 7th Psi Meeting: Psi Research and Anomalistic Psychology was held in August 2011 in Curitiba, Brazil, co-sponsored by ISLIS and the Faculdades Integradas 'Espirita'. The meeting was an international conference in South America, and the 54th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association and the 6th Journey of Altered States of Consciousness were held simultaneously. In the present report, the author gives a brief summary of the 7th Psi Meeting and research trends in the early 21st century including the topics: 1) advancement of anomalistic psychology; 2) world impact of presentiment experiments; and 3) growth of healing studies.

**Keywords:** research trend, anomalistic psychology, presentiment, precognition, healing study, parapsychology

### 1. 7th Psi Meeting and 6th Journey of Altered States of Consciousness

The 7th Psi Meeting<sup>1)</sup> was held in Curitiba, the largest city in southern Brazil on August 17th & 18th, 2011, co-sponsored by ISLIS and Faculdades Integradas 'Espirita' (FIES; UNIBEM is also used as a nickname). This international conference focused on psi research and anomalistic psychology and was held simultaneously with the 54th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association (PA)<sup>2)</sup> and a tour the 6th Journey of Altered States of Consciousness (ASC)<sup>3)</sup>. All events were hosted by Prof. Fábio Eduardo da Silva of FIES (Director of the ISLIS Curitiba Information Center), and whole schedule was just a week (**Table 1**). The conferences provided a service of simultaneous translation between English and Portuguese, and about 200 participants from Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, USA, Russia, UK, Germany, Holland and Sweden took part.

At the 7th Psi Meeting, there were 25 research papers, 2 invited lectures, and 8 round table discussions; ISLIS member contributions included a greeting message from the ISLIS President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, an oral remark, one contributed paper, and 2 oral presentations. Only two persons attended from Japan, because of the tight schedule with the 32nd ISLIS symposium that was held just after these

conferences.

**Table 1 Schedule**

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
16	/	Pre-meeting of Santo Daime and Guarany rituals	Santo Daime ritual (7 pm to 3 am)
17	Post-meeting of Santo Daime	7th Psi Meeting	
18	7th Psi Meeting		Reception of PA
19	54th Annual Convention of PA		
20	54th Annual Convention of PA		
21	54th Annual Convention of PA	/	Guarany ritual (7 pm to 3 am)
22	/	Post-meeting of Guarany ritual. Demonstration of Pyramid therapy	Umbanda ritual (7 pm to 12 pm)

The proceedings of the 7th Psi Meeting totaled 284 pages, and texts were written in English or Portuguese, and abstracts of all papers were translated into Portuguese, English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

About a half of research presentations were done by students of FIES and graduate students of the Institute of Anomalistic Psychology of the University of São Paulo (USP), which was lead by Prof. Wellington Zangari (Director of the ISLIS São Paulo Information Center). Brazilian academic activities are very strong and more

---

Hideyuki KOKUBO    kokubo@a-iri.org  
40A, Yuuki Bldg., Sonno 1108-2, Inage, Chiba 263-0051 JAPAN  
Phone: +81-43-255-5481    FAX: +81-43-255-5482

are carried out than in other countries.

The 1st Psi Meeting was held in 2002<sup>4)</sup>, and recently the meeting has come to be held every year. Attendance of Japanese researchers started with the 2nd meeting in 2004. They have presented their research studies<sup>5-9)</sup> and given lectures, including research trends in the 1990's in Japan<sup>10)</sup>, brain blood flow during qi/ki and meditation<sup>11,12)</sup>, and healing studies using biophotons<sup>13)</sup>. Moreover, as international collaborations between Japan and Brazil<sup>17)</sup>, a survey of Brazilian rituals using field-RNGs<sup>14)</sup>, distant healing between Japan and Brazil<sup>15)</sup>, and psi-inductive training<sup>16)</sup> were executed.

The tour, the 6th Journey of ASC, was held separately before and after the academic conferences. Except this time, the journey was held in the evening to late at night usually, and the psi meeting was held in the daytime. A demonstration of Pyramid therapy was held at the meeting place, and other rituals were held at other places and all participants moved to the ritual places in the suburbs. Through this tour, participants could experience the core of Brazilian religious cultures which cannot be experienced in general sightseeing tours. Therefore, some participants attended the conference for the purpose of attending the tour.

## 2. Recent Research Trends for Anomalous Phenomena

### 2.1 Anomalistic Psychology, Religious Psychology and Parapsychology

Nowadays, the UK is the most active country in parapsychological studies<sup>18)</sup>. There are more than 10 laboratories based in universities in Edinburgh, London, Bristol, etc. (Table 2), and education and studies are done there. In the UK, as a new A-level option, anomalistic psychology has been added to the pre-university psychology syllabus<sup>18)</sup>. It is expected that the study on human potential abilities from the viewpoint of anomalistic psychology will become more active in the future. This is considered as a new trend in the 21st Century.

Anomalistic psychology deals with exceptional experiences such as contacts with spiritual entities and fairies, mythological experiences, contacts with and seeing of UFOs, near death experiences (NDEs), absorption and dissociation, and various experiences in ASC. Many academic books about exceptional experiences have been published recently; for example, Cardena, Lynn & Krippner eds. *Varieties of Anomalous Experience: Examining the Scientific Evidence* (published by the American Psychological Association). Also, the establishment of the Institute for Anomalistic Psychology of the USP can be said to be an example. At the 7th Psi Meeting, there were many studies relating to

anomalistic psychology. They are listed here. (1) Phenomenology of trance: The paranormal as a field of study of the science of religion<sup>20)</sup>; (2) Varieties of contemporary experiences: Psychology faces alleged UFOs and aliens<sup>21)</sup>; (3) Cultural domain over dissociative experiences and drug addiction recovery by members of Santo Daime and Umbanda<sup>22)</sup>; (4) The representation of religion in the psyche and the possible consequences in the development and structuring of the personality of children belonging to Santo Daime Doctrine<sup>23)</sup>; (5) Strange evolution: Darwinian possibilities in psychology of anomalous experiences<sup>24)</sup>; and (6) A survey of Afro-Brazilian mediums: Gender differences and distinguishing characteristics<sup>25)</sup>.

Research areas of anomalistic psychology have common shared areas with religious psychology and parapsychology. For example, one of the themes of anomalistic psychology is the study of paranormal experiences/claims which include psi hypothesis (classic paranormal experiences and religious paranormal experiences) as a factor. However, there are differences in methodology among these three psychologies. Therefore Brazilian researchers emphasize the importance in educating each domain comprehensively<sup>26)</sup>.

Table 2 Parapsychological Laboratories in UK Universities

University	Contact Persons
Bristol	Guy Sanders, Jenny Parker, Chris Alford, Nicola Holt
Derby	Ian Baker
Coventry	Ian Hume
Edinburgh	Koestler Parapsychology Unit. Caroline Watt, Peter Lamont
Queen Margaret	Stuart Wilson
Greenwich	David Luke
Hertfordshire	Richard Wiseman
Lancashire	Paul Rogers
Lancaster	Craig Murray
Liverpool	parapsychology@hope.ac.uk
London	Chris French
Northampton	Richard Broughton, Chris Roe, Simon Sherwood, Elizabeth C Roxburgh
York	Robin Wooffitt

Current to 2011; information based on Ref. 18).

### 2.2 Presentiment (Precognition)

The 2nd large trend is studies on presentiment (precognition). In the early 1980's, Klinton<sup>27)</sup> reported a precognitive effect in his experiments about cognitive dissonance; response speed for the 1st stimuli was

influenced by the cognitive condition that the 2nd stimuli are dissonant or not. After that, some studies were reported, for example, conscious response seems to be activated before stimuli<sup>28)</sup>; theoretical consideration of quantum biological mechanisms<sup>29)</sup> etc. Then, an epoch-making study was reported by Dean Radin (USA) in the late 1990s<sup>30)</sup>. He claimed that physiological response (electrodermal activity: EDA) was caused a few seconds before stimuli of pictures. His experiment was an extension of conventional psychophysiological experiments, but he extended the data analyses zone to the pre-stimuli zone. Presentiment experiments have been reproduced in many laboratories. Moreover, in 2011, the sociopsychologist Daryl Bem (USA) reported that presentiment effects can be detected even in decision making, not only physiological factors. His article has had an impact on many researchers, not only parapsychologists, and various scientists have started to discuss the results of presentiment experiments, for example, presentiment experiments were discussed at a workshop of the Japan Association for Philosophy of Science in 2011<sup>31-36)</sup>.

Researchers have not obtained any suitable models/theories to explain the presentiment effect without conflict against modern physics yet. But, there are already known facts that organisms use quantum entanglements and that there are strange quantum phenomena, such as the Free Will Theorem<sup>37)</sup> by Conway-Kochen, in which there is a similarity with retro-causality. Presentiment may be an example that there are many phenomena of macroscopic quantum entanglements in the world.

### 2.3 Healing Studies

Healing studies can be noted as the 3rd large trend. Here, "healing" means laying-on-of-hands, prayer therapy, energy medicine, qigong therapy, bio-PK etc. The earliest modern scientific study is the experiments by Grad<sup>38)</sup> using animals and plants. Since his study, healing has been studied in complimentary and alternative medicine (CAM) and integrated medicine chiefly. Current studies were accelerated by the establishment of the Office of Alternative Medicine (OAM) of the National Institutes of Health, USA in 1992.

Japan has a long tradition of healing practice as folk-medicine or a kind of religious activity. Moreover general interest was activated by a social boom in qigong therapy and Reiki (Americanized modern lying-on-of-hands) in the 1980-90's (those practices are considered as reimported methods of Japanese laying-on-of-hands). As a result, many medical persons, therapists and counselors have an interest in healing practices, and their practices are known in various places.

Moreover, health insurance can already be applied for a care program including non-contact healing even at a nursing station<sup>39)</sup> at present.

Speed of development of medical research on healing is slower relatively than the spread of healing practices. However, if biological mechanisms of healing processes are resolved and important factors are identified, researchers will be able to create new cure methods in which the identified factors are targeted. In contrast, approach to physical mechanisms of healing phenomena is not active. Biophysical studies for fundamental mechanisms of healing phenomena should be activated more.

### 3. Final Remarks

In the above sections, the author described 3 recent large trends. Those areas have a relatively large number of established researchers, and young researchers and newcomers from other domains of science are also expected to join. In addition, there are many important studies such as the global consciousness project (GCP)<sup>40)</sup> using field-RNGs, telephone telepathy<sup>41)</sup>, survival problems, and trans-communication although they were not noted here. Those studies should be followed too.

### Acknowledgements

The author expresses special thanks to the many Brazilian and Japanese collaborators who contributed to this great international conference. Part of the present report was supported by the Azuma Nagamasa Memorial Fund for Parapsychology (Japan).

### References

- 1) [http://www.unibem.br/cipe/11\\_inde.htm](http://www.unibem.br/cipe/11_inde.htm)
- 2) [http://parapsych.org/section/22/2011\\_convention.aspx](http://parapsych.org/section/22/2011_convention.aspx)
- 3) [http://www.unibem.br/cipe/20\\_JEMCe.htm](http://www.unibem.br/cipe/20_JEMCe.htm)
- 4) [http://www.unibem.br/cipe/17\\_edante.htm](http://www.unibem.br/cipe/17_edante.htm)
- 5) Kawano K, Kokubo H, Yamamoto M, Hashizume S, Katsuragawa H, Kamada A, Takagi O and Watanabe T: Physiological studies during Taichi-quan in Japan. *Proceedings of 7th Psi meeting*, 184-191, 2011.
- 6) Kokubo H, Yamamoto M and Hirukawa T: Case report on strange electro-magnetic signals. *Proceedings of 2nd Psi Meeting*, 66-75, 2004.
- 7) Kokubo H and Yamamoto M: Research on brain activity during psychokinesis task. *Proceedings of 4th Psi Meeting*, 10-13, 2008.
- 8) Kokubo H, Takagi O, Koyama S and Yamamoto M: Spatial distribution of invisible power around a healer: Advanced application of gas measurement method using cucumber as bio-sensor. *Proceedings of 6th Psi Meeting*, 88-99, 2010.
- 9) Kokubo H, Takagi O and Nemoto Y: Biophysical measurements of bio-field around a human body.

- Proceedings of 7th Psi meeting*, 193-199, 2011.
- 10) Kokubo H: Qigong relating to psi. *Proceedings of 2nd Psi Meeting*, 190-208, 2004.
  - 11) Kokubo H and Yamamoto M: Brain activity while guessing - Research by functional near infrared spectroscopy. *Proceedings of 3rd Psi Meeting*, 133-139, 2006.
  - 12) Kokubo H and Koyama S: Various mental activities and brain blood flow measurements using fNIRS. *Proceedings of 6th Psi Meeting*, 150-156, 2010.
  - 13) Kokubo H: Biophotons reveal properties of non-contact healing - New perspective from quantitative index -. *Proceedings of 4th Psi Meeting*, 171-187, 2008.
  - 14) Hirukawa T, Hiraoka R, Da Silva FE, Pilato S and Kokubo H: Field REG experiments of religious rituals and other group events in Paraná, Brazil. *Proceedings of 3rd Psi Meeting*, 17-26, 2006.
  - 15) Facion JR, Hein J, Ganz NM, Da Silva FE, Da Silva MJ, Schilling S, Paul LSE and Kokubo H: Distant healing intention to autistic patients: An exploratory study with psychological and physical variables. *Proceedings of 3rd Psi Meeting*, 109-118, 2006.
  - 16) Kokubo H, Da Silva FE, Pilato S, Hiraoka R and Yamamoto M: Application of psi inductive training for Brazilian children. *Journal of International Society of Life Information Science*, **23**(1), 179-188, 2005.
  - 17) Kokubo H: International parapsychological studies in Japan and South American countries. *Journal of International Society of Life Information Science*, **24**(2): 367-372, 2006.
  - 18) Luke D: Psi research and anomalistic psychology in the UK. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 202-205, 2011.
  - 19) Cardeña E, Lynn SJ and Krippner S eds: *Varieties of Anomalous Experience: Examining the Scientific Evidence*, American Psychological Association, 2000.
  - 20) Cunha WR: Phenomenology of trance: The paranormal as a field of study of the science of religion. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 36-40, 2011. [In Portuguese with abstracts of English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish]
  - 21) Martins LB: Varieties of contemporary experiences: Psychology faces alleged UFOs and aliens. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 41-51, 2011. [In Portuguese with abstracts of English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish]
  - 22) Mizumoto S: Cultural domain over dissociative experiences and drug addiction recovery by members of Santo Daime and Umbanda. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 62-79, 2011. [In Portuguese with abstracts of English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish]
  - 23) De Oliveira LPM: The representation of religion in the psyche and the possible consequences in the development and structuring of the personality of children belonging to Santo Daime Doctrine. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 80-85, 2011. [In Portuguese with abstracts of English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish]
  - 24) Martins LB: Strange evolution: Darwinian possibilities in psychology of anomalous experiences. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 86-98, 2011. [In Portuguese with abstracts of English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish]
  - 25) Hageman JH and Krippner S: A survey of Afro-Brazilian mediums: Gender differences and distinguishing characteristics. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 18-35, 2011.
  - 26) Zangari W and Machado FR: Toward an inclusive anomalistic psychology. *Proceedings of 7th Psi Meeting*, 162-166, 2011. [In Portuguese with abstracts of English, French, Japanese, Russian and Spanish]
  - 27) Klintman H: Is there a paranormal (precognitive) influence in certain types of perceptual sequence? Part I. *European Journal of Parapsychology*, **5**: 19-49, 1983.
  - 28) Libet B: Subjective antedating of a sensory experience and mind-brain theories: Reply to Honderich. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, **114**: 563-570, 1985.
  - 29) Wolf FA: On the Quantum Physical Theory of subjective antedating. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, **136**, 13-19, 1989.
  - 30) Radin, DI: *The Conscious Universe: The Scientific Truth of Psychic Phenomena*, San Francisco, HarperEdge, 1997.
  - 31) <http://phsc.jp/dat/prg/2011.pdf>.
  - 32) Fukuda A and Mizumoto M: Revolution of science or pseudo science? Evidence of precognition and academism. *Print at conference of Japan Association for Philosophy of Science*, 2011. [In Japanese] <http://phsc.jp/dat/rsm/2011w2.pdf>
  - 33) Ishikawa M: History of parapsychology – It is not accepted as a science. *Print at conference of Japan Association for Philosophy of Science*, 2011. [In Japanese] <http://phsc.jp/dat/rsm/2011w201.pdf>
  - 34) Sakane T: Two claims for Bem (2011). *Print at conference of Japan Association for Philosophy of Science*, 2011. [In Japanese] <http://phsc.jp/dat/rsm/2011w202.pdf>
  - 35) Morita K: Possibility of precognition in modern physics. *Print at conference of Japan Association for Philosophy of Science*, 2011. [In Japanese] <http://phsc.jp/dat/rsm/2011w203.pdf>
  - 36) Watanabe T: For anti-Copernican turn. *Print at conference of Japan Association for Philosophy of Science*, 2011. [In Japanese] <http://phsc.jp/dat/rsm/2011w204.pdf>
  - 37) Tsutsui I: *Anti-common sense and free-will of particles*. Iwanami Shoten Publishers, 2011. [In Japanese]
  - 38) Grad B: The biological effects of the "laying on of hands" on animals and plants: Implications for biology. In G.R. Schmeidler (Ed.), *Parapsychology: Its Relation to Physics, Biology, Psychology, and Psychiatry*, pp. 76-89. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1976.
  - 39) International Healing Association for Nurses <http://npo-ihan.net/>
  - 40) <http://noosphere.princeton.edu/>
  - 41) Sheldrake R and Smart P: Videotaped experiments on telephone telepathy. *Journal of Parapsychology*, **67**: 187-206, 2003.