

Marios Kittenis

Marios Kittenis is Bial Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, investigating hypnotic phenomena and functional EEG connectivity. He has carried out research in presentiment, remote psychophysical interactions, and the psi effects of psychedelic drugs.

Career

Marios Kittenis was awarded a PhD from Edinburgh University in 2008 for research conducted within the Koestler Parapsychology Unit (KPU), on EEG measures between separated bonded individuals. He then took up post-doctoral research at Aston University in Birmingham. Kittenis returned to Edinburgh University in 2013 to undertake a programme of research into hypnotic phenomena and functional EEG connectivity.

Psychedelic Survey

With David Luke, Kittenis reports a survey of the occurrence of transpersonal experiences with psychedelic substances. Several previous surveys have found a modest relationship between psychedelic usage and paranormal experiences, but there has been no systematic investigation of the association between type of experience and psychedelic substance. Kittenis and Luke ran an online survey, in which 139 respondents described their psychoactive drug-use and experiences. Telepathic experiences were associated with cannabis usage, out-of-body experiences with ketamine, and entity encounters with N,N-dimethyltryptamine (DMT).^[1]

Mainstream Baselines

In a 2011 presentation at the Parapsychological Association, Kittenis describes his work probing for evidence of presentiment in conventional psychology EEG baseline data. The original work involved registering differences in subject's EEG between familiar and unfamiliar faces. Kittenis found significant differences between familiar and unfamiliar faces in the baseline EEG data before the faces were shown ($p = 0.01$) giving evidence for presentiment and supporting the approach of using mainstream data in psi research.^[2]

Remote Psychophysical Interactions

Parapsychological research has frequently demonstrated long-range interactions between pairs of sensorily-isolated individuals, in which, for example, a strong brain signal created in one of the pair by an unexpected startle effect (loud noise, flashing light) is later found to synchronize exactly with a similar, unexplained spike in the EEG readout of the person in a distant location.^[3] Kittenis investigated the extent to which the degree of emotional bonding between pairs of individuals might affect this kind of distant PK influence.

Forty-one participants were assigned to one of three groups: emotionally close individuals (related); pairs of recent strangers (unrelated); and single individuals who remained unpaired. Related pairs spent some time alone before simultaneously listening to a recording of a relaxation procedure, which was followed by fifteen minutes of continuous drumming, in order to induce a shared state of consciousness. During this time the 'sender' was exposed to a flashing light at random times while the receiver's brain was monitored by an EEG. With unrelated pairs, the initial alone time was omitted.

In the related pairs group, statistically significant correlations were found between light stimulation periods experienced by one individual and the corresponding brain activity in the distant partner ($p = 0.023$). The unrelated pairs showed a positive but smaller effect. Overall, the results were significant ($p = 0.007$). As expected, unpaired individuals showed no brain correlations with light flashes triggered in an empty room at a distance.^[4]

Michael Duggan

Literature

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References

Footnotes

1. ^ Luke and Kittenis (2005).
2. ^ Kittenis (2011).
3. ^ Duane and Behrendt (1965).
4. ^ Kittenis et al (2004).

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