

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

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As we examine the potential relationship between psychedelics and parapsychological studies, we must first face the question of what investigations can or should be carried out—what kind of investigation, and what kind of method, should be used. There are two kinds of analytical methods: that of mathematical logic (through quantification) and that of non-mathematical logic (through symbolic logic). The required kind of investigation is one that must lead to throwing light on causality of the phenomena we are discussing, which requires that it be applied in terms of a pre-conceived hypothesis.

To apply mathematical logic to empirical observation gets us nowhere; it is merely a determination of the validity of the phenomena—and this validity is no longer in question. Therefore what is required is a hypothesis which may use either analytic method: but, since it is likely that the phenomena are not capable of analysis by mathematical logic (for the phenomena are human imponderables such as “feeling” and “relations”) we may fruitfully use symbolic logic. Below is a tentative hypothesis for this purpose:

PREMISE. (a) There is no apparent causal connection between the phenomena and physical and physiological environments. (But this should be tested in experiment—see below under psychedelics.) (b) The phenomena involve expressions of “feeling,” “at ease” and other indications of relationship. (c) In essence, ESP, as we observe it, is communication of information; and we know that passage of information tends to be optimum if the relation of communication to observer is subject-subject within a group, i.e.

a purposive social group, and not if the relationship is subject-object. That is to say, the relationship involves sapiential authority and not structural authority, and this is obtained only where there is common purpose, which is impossible if the relationships are subject-object.

HYPOTHESIS (much adapted from Whitehead's metaphysical theory of the organism). The phenomena involve social relations in their very widest sense. All activity is governed by "relatingness," which is Whitehead's "feeling"—the universal. The organism exists only as a pattern of relations. Human symbolic imagery (learned relations) is an expression of such patterns. Relatingness is permanent, it exists, i.e. there is no time in relatingness. (Time is the relatedness of relations.) Therefore symbolic imagery of this non-time matrix of permanence may express itself—in the appropriate system of relations—as having no relation to time (i.e. foresight and hind sight). Secondly, symbolic imagery, as having permanence in relatingness, may express part of that permanence which includes "the other," (i.e. telepathic experience).

SUGGESTED PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS. These suggested studies are essentially for the purpose of establishing the premises of the hypothesis; but most can be extended to experimental testing of the hypothesis. (Those people who show extra-sensory perception are here called ESPs for short.)—1. *Are there any distinguishing features of ESPs?* (This is apart from those ESP phenomena which mark them out as ESPs.) (a) Psychological/personality (Character and temperament); (b) Physiological/adrenalin derivative theory, i.e. reoptimum ESP behavior? (a) Physical, non-animate environment (cf. seances, etc.) (b) physiological environment (cf internal constitution). (c) Animate environment (cf. relations with observers as recipients of the communication).—2. *Controlled use of psychedelics.* It would seem to me that psychedelics like LSD 25 produce heightened awareness, and this awareness is frequently that of symbolic imagery and of symbolic logic. Both kinds of awareness heighten appreciation of role-playing in the matrix of relations within the group involved. (a) Experiments involving only ESPs; following on experiments 1(b)

and 2(b). In this case the observer sees only the effect upon the other of the psychedelic. (b) Involving both ESP and observer; a group in which the relations of both must be clearly defined. (c) Not including ESPs; following experiment 2(c). Here those who have not, in normal living, shown extra-sensory perception may, under the influence of the psychedelic, become more aware of the content of symbolic imagery as expressive of the permanent matrix.

Thenceforward it would seem possible, assuming these experiments are positive, to devise a completely new series for further testing of the hypothesis.