

AFTER-DEATH COMMUNICATION WITH CELL PHONES

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Background: There has been a history of apparent communication of the living with the deceased through electronic means including a history of “telephone calls from the dead”.

Aims: To document the occurrence and characteristics of after-death communication with cell phones and to try to replicate these phenomena in a laboratory setting using smartphone applications that were developed for that purpose.

Methods:

1. A survey questionnaire consisting of 55 items specific to a participant's anomalous experiences, Saucier's Personality Inventory, and Ryff's Scales of Psychological Well-Being, was set up using Qualtrics.
2. Selected survey participants were interviewed over Zoom.
3. Relevant cell phone applications were identified and tested.

Results:

1. A total of 173 survey respondents, with a mean age of 58 years and 151 of whom were women, indicated having had anomalous cell phone experiences such as incoming calls (34%) or photos or videos showing up on the cell phone (29%). Participants scored higher than norms on emotional stability and personal growth and indicated that these experiences were positive and alleviated their grief.
2. Thematic analysis of 56 interviewees confirmed the positive nature of these experiences and added a rich context for understanding them.
3. A total of 347 cell phone applications were identified, many of which appeared to be frivolous. However, some of the applications that were set up for electronic voice phenomenon did produce some output that appeared to be anomalous.

Conclusions: Experiences of after-death communication with cell phones occur and provide beneficial effects for those who have had them.

Keywords: After-death communication, Instrumental transcommunication, Cell phones, Survival hypothesis

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