

## DEVELOPMENT OF A DUAL-MODE APPLICATION FOR PSI TESTING

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**Background:** Progress in psi research increasingly depends on methodologies that balance rigorous, objective scoring with engaging, ecologically valid participant experiences. Traditional forced-choice paradigms offer high replicability but limited experiential depth, whereas immersive free-response approaches provide richness at the cost of scoring ambiguity. Advances in artificial intelligence and web-based platforms now enable hybrid designs that integrate these strengths.

**Aims:** To describe the development and technical validation of the “Immersive Psi Test” (IPT), a dual-mode application combining explicit forced-choice trials with implicit narrative-based decisions, and to present pilot data evaluating its functional viability and preliminary performance characteristics.

**Methods:** The IPT delivers a <10-minute, AI-supported, branching narrative incorporating five image-based forced-choice trials (explicit psi) interleaved with ten covert directional choices (implicit psi). Participants ( $N = 126$ ) were randomly assigned to Enchanted or Disenchanted stimulus conditions using normed photographic sets differing strongly in environmental gestalt properties. Randomization, target selection, and display order were statistically evaluated. Participants also completed psychometric measures of transliminality and encounter-proneness.

**Preliminary Results:** Manipulation checks confirmed strong separation between Enchanted and Disenchanted images ( $d = 3.63$ ) and largely acceptable randomization, with only minor deviations in isolated trials. Explicit psi performance did not exceed chance. Implicit psi performance in the Enchanted condition showed a small but statistically significant above-chance deviation ( $p = .016$ ;  $h = 0.09$ ). Transliminality and encounter-proneness correlated as expected ( $\rho = .52$ ) but did not predict psi outcomes.

**Keywords:** Immersive testing, Instrumentation, Liminality, Narrative engagement, Psi

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