

# DOES GANZFELD STIMULATION ELICIT AN ASC, AND IS THIS ASSOCIATED WITH ESP TASK SUCCESS?

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## Background

- Ganzfeld stimulation has been used since the 1970s as a means to facilitate ESP under controlled experimental conditions, and remains one of the most successful paradigms in parapsychology.
- It was believed to encourage participants to enter a hypnopompic state, but this has been challenged by EEG studies designed to test this.
- However, such experiments have in turn been criticized for lacking ecological validity. Our project was intended to address this by monitoring EEG during a more 'standard' ganzfeld protocol

## Method

- Two ganzfeld clairvoyance experiments (N = 20) were conducted with unselected participants.
- EEG data were collected using a SmartBCI wireless 24-channel system. Participants also completed an abbreviated Phenomenology of Consciousness Index.
- A target clip was randomly selected as the session began and was played in a separate locked and empty room. Participants reported on their imagery and this was subsequently used to rate its similarity to the target and 3 decoys (presented in random order). Once data were recorded the target was revealed for feedback.

## Results

- Ps achieved 13 hits (32.5%, MCE = 25%, binomial  $p = 0.05$  1-t).
- PCI dimensions of Altered self-awareness and Volitional control predicted ESP score
- Ps who scored direct hits showed a smaller shift in vigilance from baseline, contrary to expectation.

	Rank				Sum of Ranks	SoR z-score	SoR p value	SoR ES
	1	2	3	4				
Expt 1	5 (25.0%)	2 (10.0%)	10 (50.0%)	3 (15.0%)	51	-.02	.984	.004
Expt 2	8 (40.0%)	3 (15.0%)	4 (20.0%)	5 (25.0%)	46	0.14	.89	.03
Combined	13 (32.5%)	5 (12.5%)	14 (35.0%)	8 (20.0%)	97	0.05	.960	.008

*Sum of ranks for target clips for experiments 1 & 2 combined*

