

Creation of the Attitudes towards Paranormal Experiences Scale

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Summary

Considering the prevalence of paranormal belief and experience in the general population, there has been little rigorous investigation into their phenomenological nature. Currently used measures do not provide a means to ascertain attitudes towards paranormal experiences. This paper reports on the development and validation of the Attitude towards Paranormal Experiences Scale focusing in particular on the subjective experience of precognitive (prophetic) dreams. A 63-item scale was administered to participants with reported previous precognitive dream experience ($N=330$) along with additional variables. After excluding items with unsatisfactory metric characteristics ($N=32$), a robust exploratory factor analysis yielded a 5-factor solution labelled factors “Benefit” (perceived benefit derived from one’s precognitive dream experience), “Importance” (personal significance and reliability one ascribes to this experience), “Negative emotion” (towards one’s precognitive dreams), “Credit” (desire for acknowledgement for one’s precognitive dream ability), and “Privacy” (tendency to keep one’s precognitive dreams to oneself). Further analysis of the relationship between individual factors and additional variables provides evidence on the scale’s validity.