Significant perceptions (2): Other participants [who perceived it upside down?] placed more emphasis on the conical element of it. Descriptions included:

1. "The image of an abeto[1] came to me and later I saw the leaf of an acebo[2]" (Me apareció la imagen de un abeto luego vi la hoja de un acebo), twice mentioning the conical shape;

2. "I am not very sure, but it seemed to me that there were two triangles pointing out from each side and [which were] concentrated at the center" (No estoy segura, [pero] me pareció dos triangulos que salian de cada lado y se concentraban en el centro).

Session 8, Sunday, in Spain:9

Selected image:

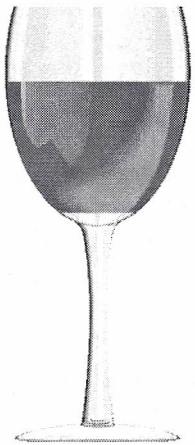


Image description: A glass filled with a red liquid (probably illustrating red wine) in which there are different tones of red, as if reflecting light and shadows.

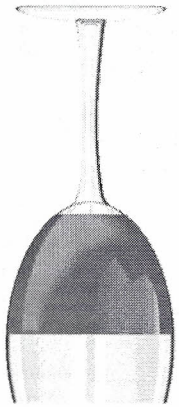
Significant perception (1): A participant perceived the details of the color, including details of the different tones. She described having perceived a "geometric figure in strong red shades" (Figura geométrica en tonos rojos fuertes).

Significant perception (2): Another participant perceived the shape and some aspects of the color. He described having seen an

[1] Coniferous three with a conical crown and horizontal branches.
[2] Sylvan three with lustrous and spiky leaves.

"image of something very tall in a very vivid color, although I could not distinguish what it was (imagen de algo muy alto de color muy vivo aunque no distinguí lo que era).

Significant perception (3): A third description related to the shape of the figure, but suggests that the participant perceived the image upside down (below). She reported: "I saw the image of a monument with the shape of a Roman triumphal arch, but with only one arch" (Vi la imagen de un monumento con la forma de un arco de triunfo romano, con un solo arco).



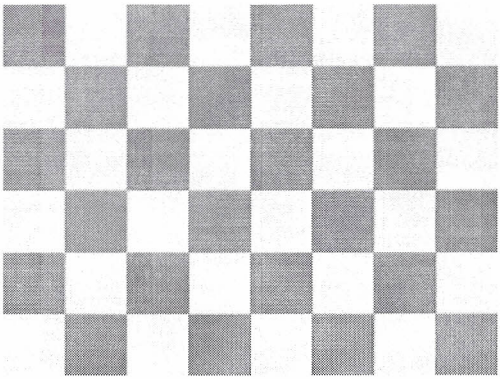
UNEXPECTED RESULTS

In both experiments unambiguous cases of precognition occurred. Two of these cases were registered by the research documentation, as they are related to precognitions of the target image of a future session. Other two cases occurred, in these instances related with future events that were subsequently confirmed during the workshop. These last two cases took place during the workshop in Portugal and were witnessed by all participants and by the auditor as well.

The two cases related to the experiment were:

1. During the third session in Portugal (Saturday) a participant described the image that was going to be selected [by the computer program] during the eighth session, more than 24 hours later. The description was: "It seems to me that I saw the computer screen with a grid of light blue squares" (Pareceu-me ter visualizado a tela do computador com uma grade com pontos azuis claros).

The image displayed during Session 8 of the experiment appears below:



This pattern on this board alternates blue and yellow squares.

2. In the first session in Spain (Friday) a participant described the image that would be selected and displayed during the third session, next morning. The description was: "It came to me the face of a dog in which we could see the red tongue and wavy, dark hair. It was small and very nice. It looked like a good and friendly dog" (me salió la cara de un perro que se le veía la lengua roja y melenas rizadas y completamente negro. Era pequeño, muy majo... Hasta el aspecto de un perro bueno y apacible).

Note: this person reported having seen, prior to the appearance of the image of the 'dog', an image that matched the shape of the image selected by the computer in that session (first session).

The image displayed during Session 3 of the experiment was:

The two cases related to future events were:

1. On the Saturday of the experiment in Portugal, a participant 'saw' an image of woods on fire, the woods appearing in a locale featuring large rocks on the ground and in proximity to a wall. The next day, in the vicinity of the hotel where the workshop and experiments were conducted, a fire began and burned for some hours in nearby woods. The fire brigade arrived to extinguish the fire, blocking the road to the hotel. The landscape and conditions of the fire matched her description very closely.

2. On Sunday afternoon, during the last session in the Portugal experiment, an individual had an experience in which she noticed someone locked inside one of the rooms close to the Experiment Room, shouting in an attempt to attract attention of passers-by and secure their release.

After collection of all questionnaires and without any examination of them, Trivellato proceeded to the Target Room (located almost directly in front of the Experiment Room) to perform the same routine as the previous sessions. Trivellato and the auditor entered the room and shut the door, without locking it. Mysteriously, they discovered that they were unable to open the door and the two of them were locked inside, shouting in vain to be heard having with them the only key of the room which was useless from the inside. Fortunately, a file containing the telephone number of the hotel was stored on the same computer used to select and display the target image allowing them to telephone the reception of the hotel and have the door opened using a master key.

It was only later during lunch, when Trivellato and the auditor were commenting on these events, that the individual who had the pre-cognitive episode in which she had perceived someone being locked in a room, told us of her experience. Her report of this experience is registered in her completed questionnaire of the last session, in the space reserved for participants to record events unrelated to attempts to view the remote target.

DISCUSSION

OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE OR REMOTE VIEWING?

Some historical experiments did not make a clear distinction between Remote Viewing and the Out-of-Body Experience – the framework of these experiments' methodology involved a person 'seeing' a remote target and drawing or describing the target **while** 'seeing' it. Because both phenomena involve accessing remote information through non-physical means, some researchers categorize this type of ESP as belonging to a family of psychic phenomenon that includes the OBE. In fact, though, these phenomena are very different in their nature.

In instances of Remote Viewing (RV) the consciousness does not 'detach' from the physical body, as the information is accessed through the projection or expansion of one's visual perception. This phenomenon could be compared to an exteriorization of sensibility through the energetic body or through the expansion of the frontalchakra of the remote viewer.

In the Out-of-body Experience, however, the consciousness actually departs from the physical body, travels to the place or environment where the remote target object is located, and "looks" at it. This is followed by the process of perceiving the object/image through extraphysical senses, interpreting the perception, memorizing it in the para-brain, and later, transferring the information from the para-brain to the physical brain.

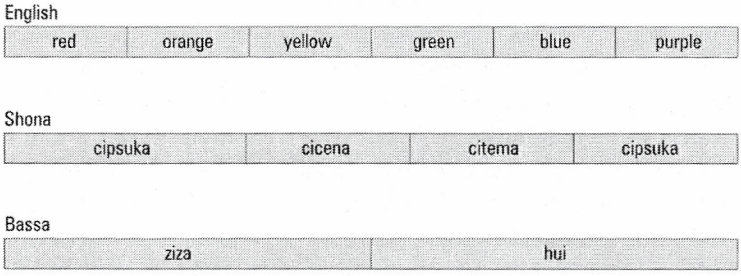
In this research it is difficult, in most cases, to classify from an external perspective (researchers' viewpoint) whether the image was captured via an Out-of-body Experience or through the process of Remote Viewing. However, the sensations and occurrences reported by the participants after each session [via the questionnaire] provide some means by which to assess the variety of the phenomenon experienced – OBE or RV.

Moreover, given the fact all the participants were provided with techniques designed to produce OBEs and, that they remained lying in a totally relaxed condition, willing to actually leave the body and travel to the Target Room, it is reasonable to speculate that many of the cases in which the target image was described with some degree of accuracy, the phenomenon experienced was an OBE.

PERCEPTION, COGNITION AND MEMORY

Intraphysical Approach

The many complexities involved in the intraphysical processes of cognition and memory have long been acknowledged by neuroscientists and psychologists. It is pertinent to remember that our 'supposedly' objective five senses seem to be not so clear-cut. For instance, below is a representation of the ways in which bands of color are understood in three different cultures (Smith, 1998).



It is not our intention to conduct a review of the subject, but rather to stimulate consideration of certain of the complexities associated with it and to that end cite some studies that have been conducted in this area.

Hanson (1969, pp.61-97) states that the interpretation of the 'objective' visual sense is a complicated issue – a visual sensation of a brilliant yellow-white disc is not itself a seeing of the sun, though any case of seeing the sun entails having had at least one visual sensation of a brilliant yellow-white disc. In the strictest sense of 'see', what one sees are two dimensional color patches; not the sun itself, but only the visual appearance of the sun.

Most of us are familiar with the well-known figures utilized in experimental psychology, containing within them two separate but inter-mingled images; individuals viewing those figures generally perceive one or the other image but seldom both, providing us with insight into the fact that people try to apply *meaning* to their *interpretation* of their perceptions and that their mental constructs to some extent interfere with the *identification* of the sensed 'object'.

The 'constructivist theory' proposed by cognitive psychologist Gregory in 1966 considers that perception is not determined simply by stimulus patterns; it is rather a dynamic searching for the best interpretation of the available data, which involves going beyond the immediately given evidence of the senses (Gross et. al, 2000). It is

widely accepted that learning and remembering are active processes that involve 'effort after meaning', that is, interpretation plays a major role in the process of remembering, as we try to make sense of our perception (reconstruct it or put into context).

Eysenck's theory of 'pattern recognition' (1993) says that we assign meaning to visual input by identifying the objects in the visual field – our ability to recognize, identify and categorize objects seems effortless; nonetheless, it actually comprises several remarkably complex achievements. According to Roth's theory (1995), our visual systems have to "decide" which edges, surfaces, corners and so on go together to form units or wholes.

Studies performed by the Institute of Psychiatry in London suggest that various functions of the brain, senses included, are handled in specialized neural modules, wired together by neural pathways. Sometimes the senses are not so precisely defined, such as in cases of synaesthesia – a disorder in which senses mingle, i.e., someone can hear words as taste (Motluk, 1994). In addition, today, more light has been shed on the mechanism of transference of visual information captured by our retina to the brain, as processes such as [physical] color blindness and negative after-images are explained.

An experiment performed at the University of Magdeburg in Germany revealed that when asked to memorize words, people tend to remember a different word which has an association of meaning or context with the original word – for instance, a word such as 'sleep' was recalled as 'drowsy' (Motluk, 1997).

Knowledge of the 'idiosyncrasies' of cognition, interpretation and memory – an area still requiring improvement in understanding – have affected even the legal system of western society, as in the instance of eyewitness testimony which is no longer accepted as objective truth.

Extraphysical Approach

Knowledge and awareness walk hand in hand and positively shape our existence. Nevertheless, the study of and search for knowledge regarding multidimensional life is an area largely neglected by the current mechanistic scientific establishment, dogmatic and afraid of looking for evidences and information regarding the non-physical aspects of our world. So, this research's rationale is directed at exploring this overlooked area of knowledge.

Despite drawing on insights provided by semiotics and psycholinguistics, the analyses of descriptions provided by participants in this

experiment are primarily based on the knowledge and experience of extraphysical reality per se.

Part of this knowledge derives, in this case, from the substantial accumulation of personal experience of the researchers with both OBEs and RVs, their vast experience in conducting classes and lectures on the subject for many years, and on the considerable collection of anecdotal accounts (case history) available.

The results of the two experiments discussed here demonstrate that images that were orientation-dependent or perspective-dependent were in some cases misapprehended by the projector due to the angle at which they were observed extraphysically. This fact evidences that the process of 'seeing' while projected is more 'flexible' and complex than the purely physical vision.

Observations made by other researchers ratify the importance of further study on the extraphysical mechanism of cognition and memory. Karlis Osis in his experiment called Fly-in that took place in 1973 came to the conclusion that the process of cognition or information acquisition during a conscious projection is different from the common extra-sensorial state (Vieira, 1999 p.953), but specifics are yet to be established.

Janet L. Mitchell (1981) and many projectors have acknowledged or mentioned the fact that it is difficult to see certain details of the physical world while projected, as is, for instance, the case of reading numbers or words. Considering that the images used as targets in this research project were displayed on a computer screen, it is possible that this contributes to the degree of difficulty associated with accurate extraphysical perception of the target image and retrieval of that information by the physical brain. This encourages a variation on the methodology in some of the future experiments by using real objects as targets.

USING A COMPUTER IMAGE AS A TARGET

Disadvantages

The use of an image displayed in a computer screen is not an ideal target for an experiment investigating extraphysical perceptions. This can be attributed to the following factors:

- Depending on the level of lucidity of the projected individual and the energetic 'density' experienced during the projection, it is possible to see a book sitting on a table whilst finding it difficult to

focus on or to read the title of the book; likewise, seeing a picture of an object is harder than seeing the object itself. Thus, the fact that image displayed on a computer screen is bi-dimensional (no depth perception) can add to the difficulty of the perception. Moreover, if Mitchell (1981, p. 6) is correct in her observation that glass or shiny surfaces are less easily perceived by the projector, the computer screen itself may add complexity to the process of the perception. In this instance, the computer screen was not as reflective as glass (having a type of matte finish) but can still be considered to have added some degree of difficulty as the screen emits light rather than reflecting it.

- The image is a representation of a real object and not the real item itself. It is, therefore, already an interpretation, showing the artist's impression of that object combined with a reproductive style or technique.
- The image displayed on the computer's screen has no energy. The computer, as a 'real' object, has energy that attracts the attention of the projector to a greater extent than the image. We can speculate that this fact may contribute to perceptions of the image in altered positions (e.g., sideways or upside-down). Would using a real three-dimensional object be likely to provide an easier target, firstly due to the object's inherent energy, and secondly by alleviation of the problem of distorted perception (although this could never be totally excluded, due to the characteristics of extraphysical vision)?
- The image can only be seen from one specific direction and, depending on the angle of approach, the colors could undergo distortion as a result of the characteristics of the computer screen.

Advantages

- The system utilizing the computer allows for completely random selection of the target image. The computer screen can display as an image: a cell, a letter, a car, a building or a cluster of galaxies. Given the infinite variety of images that could have been randomly selected as the target image by the computer, and the fact that participants had no information regarding the nature of the images before the experiment was conducted, it is clear that an advantage exists in terms of radically minimizing the likelihood of a 'lucky guess'. Calculating the significance margin of the results represents an unworkable task, as there is no way to determine how many different images it is possible for an individual to conceive.
- Excludes the possibility of telepathic transmission, as it was impossible for anyone to know which image had been selected and

displayed. If a 'real object' were used, it is unavoidable that at least one individual would have knowledge of the target object prior to the conclusion of the experiment as someone would be required to place it in the target room.

• Facilitates easy changing of image banks from one experiment to another.

POSSIBLE REDESIGN OF THE METHODOLOGY

The following points outline current proposals for the development of the existing methodology that would be interesting to incorporate in future experiments.

• Some revisions that can and will eventually be completed in this area of research include the insertion of a means of objective detection of the presence of projected consciousnesses in the Target Room. The best method of detection is through the use of living beings, preferably persons, as they would be able to communicate and describe their perception. Clearly, it would be pre-requisite that any human detector had developed parapsychic capabilities, with those perceptual capacities well tuned to the task at hand, thus introducing a new variable that might prove difficult to control. The use of some sort of sensitive electronic device to detect the presence of the projector is not ideal, as there is no known technology readily available at the present time with the capability to guarantee detection of a non-physical presence (Alegretti, 1990); however, it is the 'least bad' option and attempts to include technology such as an infra-red camera will be included in future experiments.

• Use of a bank of images composed of real photographs of simple things, aiming at facilitating recollection.

• Regarding the use of real three-dimensional objects, one method to allow this approach in place of computer images whilst still avoiding telepathic interference, would be the construction of a robot capable of randomly selecting a target object from a box or shelf with a number of pre-selected objects and placing it in a pre-determined location. However, such a method would impose a reduction of the number and nature of possible targets.

• After the full battery of experiments are conducted and before the final conclusions, the researchers intend to invite independent judges to examine the descriptions of the images provided by the participants in order to have their opinion and analysis about the participant's perceptions.

• Instead of the six controlled sessions currently conducted over the period of a weekend, more ideal conditions would entail 21 controlled sessions over a period of seven days. We can conjecture that this would yield better results as it would allow a deeper training and immersion in the exercises.

FINDINGS

To date, the results derived from analysis of data collected during these two experiments suggest that:

1. Participants were more prone to precognition than to simulcognition (i.e., OBEs or RVs). These findings illustrate how little is understood about the process of information apprehension by the mentalsoma [exactly what mechanism is employed by the mentalsoma to foresee the image that will be randomly selected by a computer program in the future when that information exists only as patterns of ones and zeros on the computer's hard disk at the time of the precognition?].

2. Shapes and colors were more easily perceived and individuals reported having difficulty in specifying exactly what the 'thing' depicted in the image was (i.e. its name). Nonetheless, participants had a tendency to interpret perceived data or to put their perception into some personal context, for instance by translating geometrical shapes into objects we encounter in everyday life. Possible explanations for this are:

a. Reported experiences occurring during the hypnagogic phase, resulting in a less analytical state of mind.

b. Physical perception uses specific neural circuits, which makes storage and recollection an easier and more familiar process. In the case of extraphysical perceptions, though, the specific memories are brought to the brain without using those specialized neural pathways, making the process less accurate.

3. In some sessions, more than one participant perceived the same image as one another, despite the fact that the shared image was not the image selected by the computer. This suggests either a telepathic/mental link between them or a link with one or more extraphysical consciousness who in turn expressed that idea. As illustrations of this, two of these instances are:

a. In the first session of the first experiment (Portugal), three persons saw a sea seal (the animal).

b. In the fourth session of the same experiment, three persons saw a water-going craft or ship (two saw a sail boat and one saw a canoe).

4. The images used in the image bank during the experiments were not based on previous historical studies conducted by other researchers or aimed at verifying their results. The researchers' initial scheme involved the use of a different image bank for each experiment, in an effort to determine which, if any, type of 'image' is more easily captured or transferred to the brain by a projected consciousness. Nevertheless, the results of these experiments tend to support J. L. Mitchell's (1981) assertion that, during OBEs and RVs, primary colors are more easily perceived.

5. For more conclusive results and to address the points 5, 6, and 7 referred to in the section Objectives, further experiments will be completed in order to generate additional raw data.

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ANNEX

SCRIPT USED IN THE RANDOM IMAGE SELECTION
(script written by Rodrigo Medeiros – IIPC Florida)

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Image Target Project</title>
</head>

<body>
<SCRIPT LANGUAGE="VBSCRIPT">
<!--
' Copyright (c) 2001 International Institute of Projectiology and Conscientiology

Dim iMaxImgNum, iMinDelay, iMaxLoops
```

```
    sSelectedImg = Int(Rnd * iMaxImgNum) & sImgExtension

    document.write "<center><img src =""" & sSelectedImg & """></center>"

End Sub

-->

</SCRIPT>
<form method="POST" action=Test>

 <p align="center"> 
 </p>

 <p align="center"><input type="submit" value="Start Timer" name="Start">
 </p>
</form>
</body>

</html>
```

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