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**Types and Temperaments:
personality correlates of
belief in, and involvement with
paranormal phenomena**

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"The last year has not been easy.

There were many times when I could have walked away.

But, I held on to what you told me once,

"It's lunacy to throw away data from over 400 subjects!!!"

And, I kept remembering what you told me,

"You are very close to it."

So.

Here I am.

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Summary

The personality correlates of belief in, and involvement with paranormal phenomena were investigated in terms of two personality theories. Jung's (1921/1974) Functional theory of personality types, and Keirsey and Bates' (1984) four-temperament theory were used to generate hypotheses about belief and involvement with paranormal phenomena. The four Jungian personality dimensions and the four temperaments were identified using the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory. Paranormal phenomena were divided into two groups: traditional (religious) phenomena, and anomalous (e.g., psi, witchcraft, precognition etc.) phenomena. Paranormal beliefs were assessed using the Paranormal Belief Scale (PBS: Tobacyk, 1988). Paranormal involvement was assessed using a specially constructed involvement scale that was designed to complement the PBS. A total of 417 subjects drawn from a university population took part in the study. On the four Jungian dimensions, introverts had higher scores than extraverts for traditional belief. Feelers had higher scores than thinkers for traditional belief, traditional involvement and anomalous belief. Perceptives had higher scores than judgers for anomalous belief and involvement. Intuitives had higher scores than sensors for anomalous involvement. Significant Sex x Judging-Perceiving interactions were found for anomalous belief and anomalous involvement. The interactions were due to male judgers having lower scores than female

judgers, or perceptives of either sex. For the four temperaments, Prometheans had lower scores than either Apollonians or Epimetheans for both traditional belief and traditional involvement. However Apollonians had higher scores than either Epimethieans or Prometheans for anomalous beliefs, but both Apollonians and Pometheans had higher scores than Epimethians for anomalous involvement. Belief and involvement scores were also used to validate the PBS and the Paranormal Involvement Scale. The results were initially discussed in terms of the two personality theories. Then a rapproachment between the two theories was shown to be feasible. It was also argued that investigators of personality correlates of paranormal belief had tended to have a negative bias towards believers. Future work regarding the relationship between Jung's theory and temperament theory was suggested.