Contents

Abstract  1
Keywords  1
1 Introduction  2
   1.1 Aims of This Work  9
2 Some Considerations on Terminology  14
   2.1 Supernormal, Psychic, Parapsychological, and Paranormal  15
   2.2 Anomalous  16
   2.3 Other Variations  17
   2.4 A Sociohistorical Perspective  18
   2.5 Experiences and Events  19
   2.6 Belief  21
   2.7 Religion and the Paranormal  23
   2.8 Spirituality  26
   2.9 Mystical Experience  28
3 The Psychology of the Paranormal: A Critique  29
   3.1 Cognitive Biases and Paranormal Belief  30
   3.2 Intelligence and Critical Thinking  32
   3.3 Probability Misjudgment and Patterncity  32
   3.4 Educational Level  34
   3.5 Thinking Styles  35
   3.6 Ontological Confusions  37
   3.7 Delusions and Other Psychotic Symptoms  38
   3.8 Conceptual and Methodological Problems  39
4 Parapsychology and Religion  44
   4.1 Strengths and Limitations of Personal Experience: Parapsychology's Response  46
   4.2 Parapsychologists and Religion over Time  50
   4.3 Psi and Religious Variables  58
5 Concluding Remarks  64
Acknowledgment  68
References  68
Index  94