

Relationship between sensory processing profiles and sense of presence

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ABSTRACT

'Sensory Processing' is the distinction, modulation and response to sensory input, and combines high or low neurological thresholds and high or low behavioral responses. We examined the impact of sensory processing on sense of presence in a flight VRE. Subjects (85) completed the Adult Sensory Profile, experienced a 10 minute VRE and completed presence questionnaires. According to expectations, Sensory Sensitivity correlated positively with presence for Minority (Arab) participants and those who failed to look at the window, and Sensory Avoidance correlated positively with presence. Contrary to expectations Sensory Sensitivity correlated negatively with presence for Majority (Jewish) participants and Sensory Avoidance correlated negatively with presence for Minority (Arab) participants. We conclude that for high Sensory Sensitivity individuals it is essential to ensure that distracting technological and environmental stimuli are kept to a minimum; for High Sensory Avoidant individuals, control of the environment is important; for those high on Sensory Seeking, interactivity in the VRE is important to enhance presence.

Full papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings and will be available to delegates at the conference on Sept. 10.

Full papers will be released on-line in the ICDVRAT archive on March 15.