

Policy 08.4 - Subliminal Conditioning in Digital Environments

Summary:

Policy 08.4 addresses the now-abandoned experimental protocol involving subliminal stimulus exposure in controlled online environments. Originally designed as a Phase II expansion of the RMI vault calibration program, the initiative aimed to determine whether cognitive priming via digital exposure could accelerate recall alignment in low-response subjects.

Background:

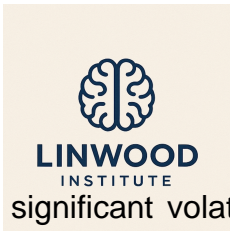
Initiated in late 2021, the protocol introduced curated digital sequences-brief image frames (12-17ms), altered text prompts, and ambient sound loops-into browser-based modules accessed by volunteer subjects. Participants were unaware of the experimental layer, having consented only to 'cognitive aptitude diagnostics.' The hypothesis rested on earlier fMRI-linked models which suggested that pre-conscious sensory exposure could bias associative neural pathways without triggering conscious resistance.

Methods:

- 46 trial participants (Cohort B.2.4) engaged in weekly modules across a 12-week cycle.
- Digital stimuli were randomized across categories (emotive, semantic, and symbolic).
- EEG overlays recorded microvolt shifts in the P300 wave to detect subconscious recognition.
- Comparative data was taken from a matched control group with no embedded stimuli.

Findings:

Initial data indicated a 19.3% increase in trial compliance among exposed subjects, with marginal elevation in loop-entry rates during Phase I reinforcement. However, longitudinal monitoring showed



significant volatility in sleep-pattern metrics and elevated stress markers (notably salivary cortisol and HRV irregularities). Two participants (IDs 14B and 22B) experienced vivid episodic flashbacks, prompting an immediate halt to progression.

Conclusion:

The Ethics & Oversight Committee unanimously voted to discontinue the protocol. While the hypothesis remains neurocognitively plausible, the threshold for harm exceeded Linwood's acceptable risk model. No further trials involving subliminal digital influence shall be conducted without explicit real-time subject awareness and opt-in protocols.

Effective Date: Retroactive to March 2022

Review Date: Deferred

Authorized by: Linwood Experimental Ethics Subcommittee (LEES)