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Support for astrology from the charts of serial killers.

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Introduction

Many attempts have been made to find correlations between characteristics of people and their birth charts by statistical means. Classical is the work of Michel Gauquelin, who investigated planetary positions at birth for people who excelled in their profession. The best known of his results is the 'Mars-effect': in the charts of very successful sporters Mars was found more frequently than expected in the areas around the Ascendant and the MC. These areas were called the 'Gauquelin-zones'. For other eminent professionals such as physicians, military men and writers he found similar results.

In statistical terms, Gauquelin's results were very significant. The probability that they were the result of chance was in the order of 1 to several millions. Yet the effect in itself was not very big. The number of sporters with Mars in a Gauquelin-zone was less than 1 percent greater the number without. This cannot be called very strong support for astrology. The probable reason is that, although all those sporters were eminent in their field, we must assume that in many other respects they were very different people. The same is the case for the other groups investigated by Gauquelin. Although they belong to the top in there field, yet they are not extreme enough and in particular as a group they are not homogeneous enough.

Jan Ruis therefore searched for a well defined, very homogeneous group, which has certain exceptional characteristics in common. This group had to be well defined in an objective way and should be large enough to allow statistical statements. In addition, concrete statements about this group should be available in the astrological literature.

Serial killers fulfill these conditions. They were, as it turned out, precisely defined by the FBI and by this definition easy to distinguish from other killers. 90% of serial killers are men. Jan therefore collected as many as possible birth data for male serial killers, initially with birth time, later also without, from reliable and verifiable sources. These sources include Astrodatabank (the former Lois Rodden Databank, now freely available on the internet), and other internet sources such as Wikipedia. Eventually he found 293 serial killers, 77 of which with birth time, 216 without.

A study of the astrological literature showed that Liz Greene, leading astrologer in the field of psychological astrology had, together with Howard Sasportas, made several assumptions about serial killers. These were chosen as starting point for the investigation. They form the basis for the hypotheses which are tested.

The hypotheses of Liz Greene and Howard Sasportas :

There are five hypotheses, three 'greater' and two 'smaller'.
The 'greater' hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1. The birth chart of a serial killer more often shows an emphasis on the mutable signs, in particular the sign of the Moon. The underlying assumption is, that people with emphasis on mutable signs are more sensitive to conflicting experiences and feelings in early childhood. (Greene & Sasportas,

1987). Sasportas assumes that this can be the case for serial killers. A low boredom treshold and a short attention span, to a certain degree seen in the clinical picture of the psychopath, are also attributed to mutable signs. Mercury in mutable rather than fixed signs is also mentioned.

Hypothesis 2. Certain Moon aspects, among which Moon-Saturn, occur more frequently. Others, such as Moon-Jupiter, less frequently.
The role of the Moon is related to specific positions such as in mutable signs and to aspects like Moon-Saturn. This is based on the assumption that lack of empathy and connectedness and dissociation of feelings, as shown by psychopaths, are Moon-functions. Greene also states that the Moon reflects the primary relation with the mother, who often plays a negative role in the childhood of serial killers. Aspects of the Moon with Saturn and Uranus would indicate a predisposition to dissociation. Moon-Saturn aspects, in particular the trine, would show up frequently in the charts of psychopathic murderers. The occurrance of Moon-Saturn or Moon-Uranus, together with Moon-Neptune or Moon-Pluto would be a strong indicator for dissociation. Not all Moon-aspects are expected to be frequent: Moon-Jupiter aspects probably occur less.

Hypothesis 3. There is more often emphasis on the 12th principle, that is, emphasis on Neptune, the 12th house and/or the sign of Pisces.
This hypothesis is based on the strong imagination, the receptivity to collective stimuli, the display of charm, deceiving, parasitic behaviour and the self-isolating of psychopaths. The 12th principle, represented by Pisces, the 12th house and Neptune, also reflects feelings of weakness and impotence, which are denied and projected onto others, to restore a false sense of power. Neptune and the 12th house are associated with the theme 'victim - being persecuted' and a strongly placed Neptune, in the 12th house or under stressfull aspects, can be coupled with sadism.

The 'smaller' hypotheses:

Hypothesis 4. The chart of a serial killer more often shows stressfull aspects between Mars and the slow planets beginning with Saturn. This concerns for example Mars-Neptune aspects, which also fall under hypothesis 3.

Hypothesis 5. The chart of a serial killer more often shows aspects between Chiron the Moon or Mars. Liz Greene assumes that Chiron plays a role in the charts of psychopathic murderers and that aspects of Chiron with Moon and Mars would occur more frequently.

The investigation
Jan Ruis investigated if the factors mentioned in the hypotheses occur more frequently than expected in the birth charts of the group of serial killers. He used various control procedures.
He compared the results for serial killers with those for a very large control group of people who were not serial killers. *Numerically*, these people were born in the same countries and years as the serial killers, but on *randomly chosen dates*. The random dates are necessary to avoid 'artefacts': apparent deviations from what would be expected, which are actually caused by the procedure followed during the investigation. The occurence of artifacts is one of the major pitfalls in this kind of research.

In addition he used a large number of control groups wich were generated according to a special randomisation protocol. All charts were calculated with Placidus houses en with the major aspects conjunction, sextile, trine, square and opposition, both with narrow and wide orbs.

The investigation was done twice. First with the charts of 77 serial killers for whom the birth time was known. Then, as replication, the investigation was repeated with a second group of 216 charts. For this second group the birth times were unknown, so not all results found for the first group could be replicated.

Results

With respect to *hypothesis 1, more emphasis on mutable signs, in particular the sign of the Moon.*

For the group of 77 persons with birth time, when considering the total of Sun through Saturn plus the Ascendant, that the total of these eight factors is significantly greater for the mutable signs than for the fixed or the cardinal signs. Here the Moon causes the greatest effect. In contrast to this, and unexpectedly, the fixed signs show a great deficit, as shown in fig. 1.
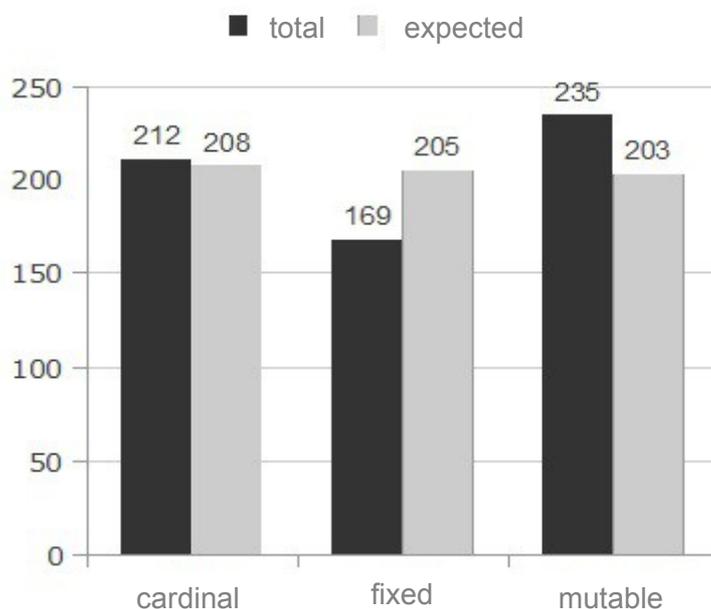

fig. 1, Sun through Pluto in the qualities for group 1, n=77.

The group of 216 persons without birth time also shows this surplus in the mutable signs. The characteristic in fig. 2 shows up a characteristic pattern when the two groups are combined. There is a surplus in mutable, mainly due to the sign Saggitarius and an unexpected deficit in fixed, in particular in Taurus and Leo.
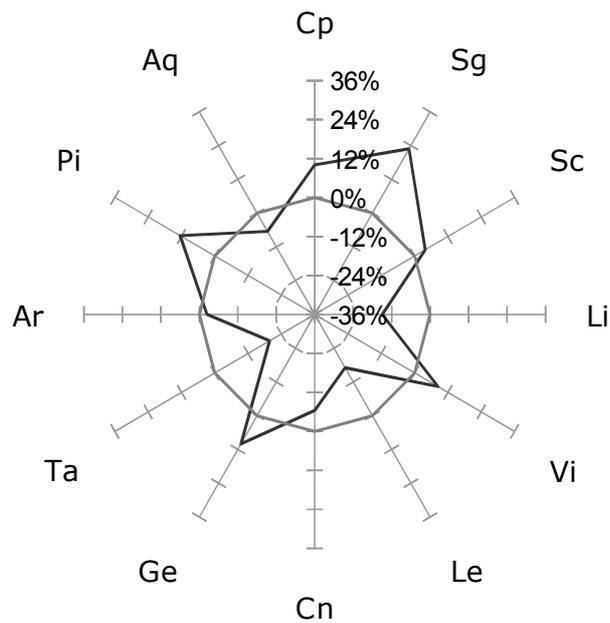
fig. 2, Sun through Pluto in sign for both groups, n=293.

Regarding *hypothesis 2, Moon aspects occurring more frequently.*

The 77 horoscopes with birth time show a clear excess of Moon-Saturn and even stronger of Moon-MC aspects and a deficit Moon-Sun and Moon-Mars aspects (see fig. 3). In the group of 216 without birth time the same trends in visible. Because of the missing birth times the Moon position is uncertain here, which affects the number of aspects that are found.
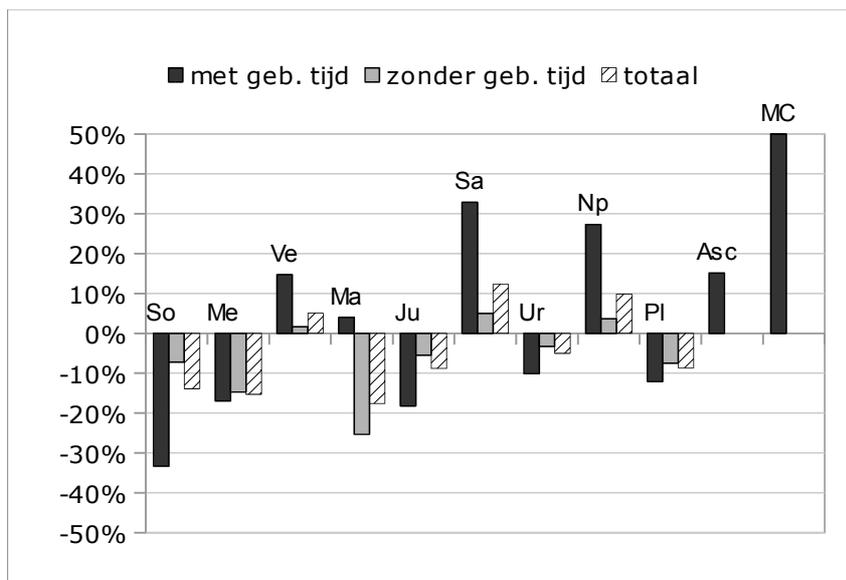

fig. 3, Moon-aspects as percentage deviation from expectation.

For both groups combined the Moon-Saturn and Moon-Neptune aspects are more frequent than expected, the Moon-Sun, Moon-Mercury and Moon-Mars aspects are less frequent.

With regard to *hypothesis 3, more emphasis on the 12th principle,*

Emphasis on the 12th principle means: more often emphasis on Neptune, the 12th house and/or Pisces. The total frequency of Sun through Pluto in the 12th house is increased, (see fig. 4). On closer examination Mars and Neptune contribute most to this (see fig. 5). There appear to be more stressfull aspects between Neptune and the planets from Sun to Saturn.
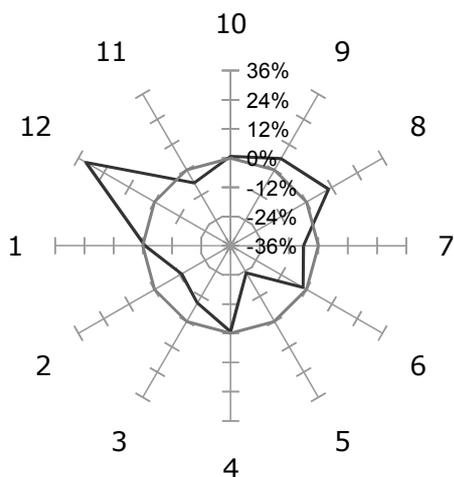Pisces occurs more frequently.
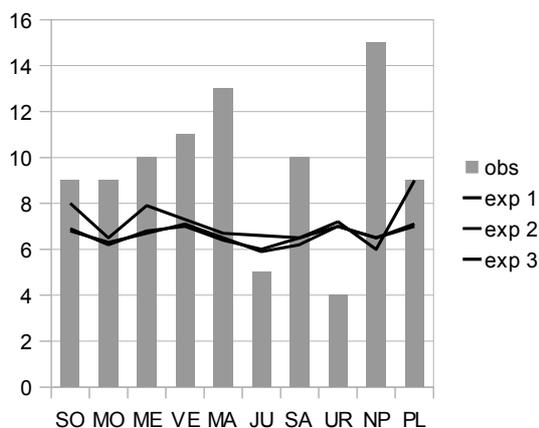

fig. 4, Excess of planets in house 12

fig. 5, Planets in house 12 relative to expectation

Concerning *hypothesis 4, more stressfull aspects between Mars and the slow planets starting from Saturn and hypothesis 5, more aspects between Chiron and Maan or Mars*, no significant deviations from expectation were found.

Summarizing:
Three out of five hypotheses were confirmed:
1. Emphasis on mutable signs,
2. More frequent occurence of certain Moon aspects,
3. More emphasis on the 12th principle.

Not confirmed were:
4. More stressfull aspects between Mars and the slow planets starting from Saturn,
5. More aspects between Chiron and Moon or Mars.

Unexpectedly an excess of factors appears in the cadent houses, particularly in the 12th house and a deficit in the fixed and succedent houses, in particular in the 5th house. This is in accordance with the other hypotheses, and with the deficits, mentioned earlier, in Taurus and Leo.

Conclusion

This investigation appears very thorough both in design and in the way it was executed and the results support a number of hypotheses put forward by Liz Greene. Follow-up research must show whether this support will hold.

Literature

Jan Ruis, *Correlation, Volume 25 (2) 2007/2008*

Michel Gauquelin, (1955), *L'Influence des Astres.*

Liz Greene & Howard Sasportas, (1987), *The Development of the Personality.*

Liz Greene, (2003), The Dark of the Soul.