Experimental Projects

1. Telepathy among intimate partners
2. Intention & random number generators
3. Intention & staring
4. Physiological effects of Feng Shui
5. Premonitions
6. Retroactive intercessory prayer & holocaust survival
7. Effect of “meanspeak” on plant growth
1: Telepathy among Intimate Partners
Kristen Walker & Tehani Pestalozzi

• Motivation
  – Tibetan tradition: strong karmic connection between intimate partners lasts 7 years after an encounter
• Approach
  – Sensing whether room on other side of brick wall contains: partner, stranger, or no one
• Hypothesis
  – Hit rate for trials involving receiver’s partner should be greater than 33.3%
• Experiment
  – 504 trials
    • 7 couples together 3-10 years, 4 couples 11-22 yrs
  – Protocol set out in advance
  – Carefully managed so receiver saw & heard no one
Telepathy among Intimate Partners: Results

Kristen Walker & Tehani Pestalozzi

- Chance would be 33.3% correct
- Success between partners: 38.3%
  - Success rate between partners of fewer than 10 years: 44.4%
- Success between strangers: 28.8%
  - If opposite sex: 35.1%
- Success rate for empty room: 28.6%
- p-values
  - Overall: 0.23
  - Related samples t-test comparing hits ratio for partner versus stranger or empty room: 0.034 ⇒ statistically significant
2: Intention & Random Number Generators
Stacia Roberts & Doug Schuyler

- Using psychokinesis to affect output of random number
generators (RNGs)
  - Used Orion Electronics RNGs with Orion software package
- Looked at change in success rate over time
- 540 trials
- Results
  - No clear trend in hit rate over time
  - Overall p-value: 0.012 ⇒ statistically significant
Motivation
- To determine whether intention during staring affects one’s ability to sense the stare

Hypothesis
- Staring with intention will be sensed better than without

Experiment
- 1073 trials
- All trials videotaped for experimenter to monitor

Results
- No consistent trend with intention shown
Motivation
– To measure effects of Yin and Yang surroundings versus Feng Shui

Hypothesis
– A Yin environment will produce relaxation and a Yang environment will produce agitation compared to a balanced Feng Shui environment

Experiment
– 23 x 3 trials in Yin, Yang & balanced Feng Shui rooms
– Subjects blindfolded
– Pulse rate of subjects measured before & after exposure to environments

Results
– Yang environment: no significant effect (p-value = 0.97)
– Yin environment: higher pulse (p-value = 0.0007) ⇒ psi missing?
– Confounding variable? (e.g., candle, individual’s presence)
• Motivation
  – To analyze psi in natural, non-laboratory conditions

• Procedure
  – Gathered 30 premonitions and categorized them
    • Subjects: Death in family, 9/11, traffic citation, etc.

• Conclusions
  – 70% premonitions of negative events
  – 48% concerning family, 23% concerning self
  – Appear to prepare for & possibly prevent misfortune
  – Difficult to assess probability that premonitions were due to chance
  – Persons having premonitions develop strong sense as to whether they are accurate
6: Retroactive Intercessory Prayer & Holocaust Survival
Michelle Bedard & Amy Cacace

- Motivation
  - Intercessory prayer studies including retroactive effect on bloodstream infection published by Leibovici

- Hypothesis
  - Retroactive intercessory prayer would affect survival rate of Auschwitz concentration camp prisoners

- Experiment
  - List of 178 survivors and 363 non-survivors generated
  - 277 randomly assigned to prayer group & 264 to non-prayer group (double blind)
  - 17 people prayed for prisoners represented by the number 277
    - People praying not told experiment was retroactive

- Results
  - Within chance \(\Rightarrow\) null result
    - Prayer group p-value = 0.85
    - Control group p-value = 0.98
  - Might be better to pray for results that lie on a continuum, to allow for subtle influence
7: Effect of “Meanspeak” on Plant Growth
Jesse Rains

• Hypothesis
  – Plants will respond to negative human communication with reduced rates of vertical growth

• Experiment
  – 100 seeds divided into four groups & allowed to germinate
    A: Exposed to plant cutting & meanspeak (15 min/week)
    B: Exposed to plant cutting only
    C: Exposed to meanspeak only
    D: Neither
  – Treated identically otherwise
  – Measured height & germination rate using ruler and camera
Effect of “Meanspeak” on Plant Growth
Jesse Rains

• Results

A: Exposed to plant cutting & meanspeak  \( p = 0.0007 \)
B: Exposed to plant cutting only  \( p < 0.0001 \)
C: Exposed to meanspeak only  \( p = 0.0003 \)
D: Neither (control)
   \( \Rightarrow \) Statistically highly significant