

## *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  $\Rightarrow$  statistically significant

### *3: Intention & Staring*

*Meg Risley & Danielle Summerlin*

- 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

## 4: Physiological Effects of Feng Shui

Katie Couch & Kevin Harshman

- 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)  $\Rightarrow$  psi missing?
  - Confounding variable? (e.g., candle, individual's presence)

## *5: Premonitions*

*Suzanne Spiegel & John Christiansen*

- 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*

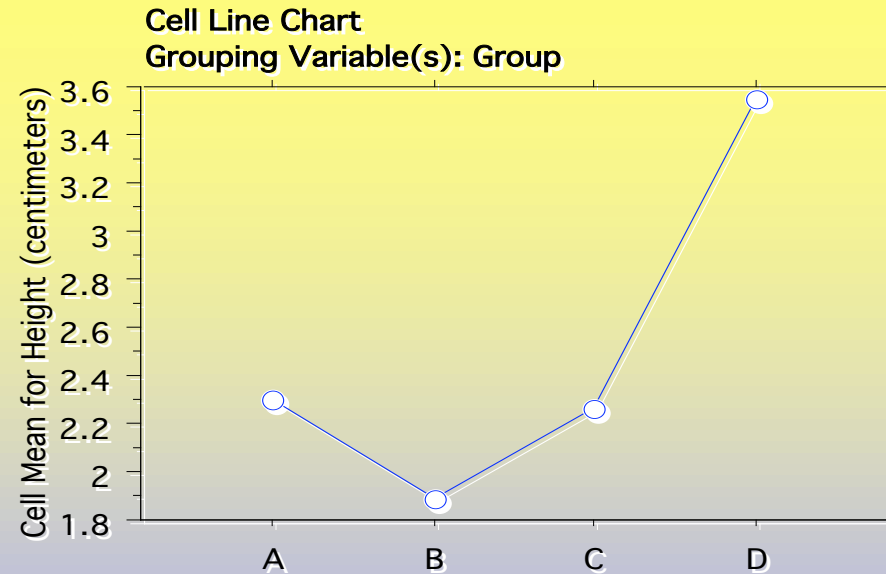
*Jesse Rains*

- 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)

⇒ Statistically highly significant