

Are ESP and PK Aspects of a Unitary Phenomenon? Considering the Relationship Between ESP and PK

Results:

This project consisted of four studies that systematically explored performance at ESP and PK tasks using a common protocol.

Study 1 compared personality covariates of performance for ESP and PK tasks. The overall outcome was disappointing, with sums of ranks for finishing positions a little worse than mean chance expectation (MCE). However, there were a number of interesting internal effects that were consistent with previous findings and merited further exploration.

Study 2 considered the effects of expectancy by comparing performance in an informed condition with that in a blind condition. The overall outcome was similar to that for Study 1. However, we did find that participants performed significantly better in the blind condition, suggesting that poor performance was not due to a disenchantment effect brought about by the use of deception.

Study 3 considered the effects of arousal level upon performance by instructing participants to adopt a relaxed/passive or aroused/active strategy, and by playing rousing or calming classical music. No effects of arousal were found, though general performance was somewhat better than previously.

Study 4 focused on possible experimenter effects. RD, who had conducted all previous sessions was experimenter for 20 trials, but CR conducted the other 20 trials. It was hypothesised that CR's participants might fare better since he is a more experienced researcher and as its main designer and fundraiser has a greater 'ownership' of this project. We also included a questionnaire that asked about aspects of the experimenter-participant interaction.

There was a further improvement in the overall outcome, and CR's participants did fare better than RD's, suggestively so overall and significantly so for disguised ESP trials. A number of the interaction items correlated remarkably strongly with task performance. Further work is planned.

Published Work:

Journal papers

Roe, C.A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2006). *"Experimenter effects in laboratory tests of ESP and PK using a common protocol"*. *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 20, 239-253.

Roe, C.A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2005) *"Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? The effects of deception when testing the relationship between ESP and PK"*. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, 69, 18-32.

Roe, C.A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2004). *"Arousal and performance at ESP and PK tasks using a common protocol"*. *European Journal of Parapsychology*, 19, 29-43.

Roe, C.A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2003). *"Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? A preliminary test of the relationship between ESP and PK"*. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 67, 343-366.

Published conference Proceedings

Roe, C.A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2004) *"Experimenter effects in laboratory tests of ESP and PK using a common protocol"*. Proceedings of the 47th Annual Parapsychological Association Convention. 185-196.

Roe, C.A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2003) *"Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? A further test of the relationship between ESP and PK"*. Proceedings of the 46th Annual Parapsychological Association Convention. 222-236.

Roe, C.A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2002) *"Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? A preliminary test of the relationship between ESP and PK"*. Proceedings of the 45th Annual Parapsychological Association Convention.

Other conference presentations

Roe, C. A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2004a) *Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? Considering the relationship between ESP and PK*. Poster presented at the Bial Foundation Behind and Beyond the Brain Conference, Porto, Portugal, 30 March- 1 April 2004.

Roe, C. A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2004b) *Experimenter effects when testing for ESP and PK*. Paper presented at the Society for Psychical Research 28th International Conference, West Downs Centre, University College Winchester, 3rd – 5th Sept.

Roe, C. A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2003) *Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? Studies 2 and 3 of a series to test the relationship between ESP and PK*. Paper presented at the Society for Psychical Research 27th International Conference, Manchester Conference Centre, 5st – 7th Sept.

Roe, C. A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2002a) *Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? A preliminary test of the relationship between ESP and PK*. Paper presented at the Society for Psychical Research 26th International Conference, Manchester Conference Centre, 30th Aug – 1st Sept.

Roe, C. A., Davey, R., & Stevens, P. (2002b) *Are ESP and PK aspects of a unitary phenomenon? A preliminary test of the relationship between ESP and PK*. Poster presented at the Bial Foundation 4th International Symposium: Behind and Beyond the Brain. Porto, Portugal, April 2002.

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