

## **An investigation of telepathy and the sense of being stared at in humans and animals.**

### **Results:**

Many people have found that they think of someone for no apparent reason, and shortly afterwards receive a telephone call or an email from that person. In tests on telephone telepathy, during my previous Bial Foundation Bursary, I found that people really could anticipate who was about to call them. My Research Associate Pam Smart and I have now completed more than 500 email telepathy tests, following a similar design to the telephone telepathy tests. Each subject has four potential emailers some of whom are familiar and nominated by the subject, while others are unfamiliar. For each test, the emailer is selected at random by the experimenter.

As in the telephone telepathy experiments there is a one in four chance of the subject guessing correctly at random. Hence the mean chance expectation of success is 25%. In an initial series of 552 trials, we tested 50 participants. The hit rate was 43%, very significantly above the mean chance expectation of 25% ( $p=1 \times 10^{-20}$ ). The 95% confidence limits of the success rate were from 39% to 47%.

We then tested five participants under more rigorous conditions in which they were filmed continuously. In 150 filmed trials, the hit rate was 47 ( $p=1 \times 10^{-9}$ ).

In some of our trials the emailers were more than 10,000 kilometres away from the participants with no sign of any decline owing to distance.

An on-line version of the email telepathy experiment is now available on my website [www.sheldrake.org](http://www.sheldrake.org).

I have continued with my research on the sense of being stared at and have written an extensive review of the evidence and also a paper on its theoretical implications, due to appear in a special issue of the *Journal of Consciousness Studies* in the summer of 2005.

### **Published Works:**

#### **Book**

Sheldrake, R. *The Sense of Being Stared At, And Other Aspects of the Extended Mind*. London: Hutchinson (2003) (ISBN 0-09-179463-3)

#### **Papers**

Sheldrake, R. & Morgana, A. Testing a language-using parrot for telepathy. *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, **17**, 601-616 (2003)

Sheldrake, R. & Smart, P. Experimental tests for telephone telepathy. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, **67**, 174-199 (2003)

Sheldrake, R. & Smart, P. Videotaped experiments on telephone telepathy. *Journal of Parapsychology*, **67**, 147-166 (2003)

Sheldrake, R. The need for open-minded scepticism: A reply to David Marks. *The Skeptic*, **16**, 8-13 (2003)

Sheldrake, R., Godwin, H and Simon Rockell, S. A filmed experiment on telephone

- telepathy with the Nolan sisters. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* **68**, 168-172 (2004)
- Sheldrake, R. Investigaciones experimentales en telepatia por teléfono. *Revista Argentina de Psicología Paranormal* **15** 209-230 (2004)
- Sheldrake, R. Public engagement in science funding. *Nature* 432, 271 (2004)
- Sheldrake, R. Investigaciones experimentales en telepathia por telefono (in Spanish) *Revista Argentina de Psicología Paranormal* **15** No.3-4, (2004)
- Sheldrake, R. and Smart, P. Testing for telepathy in connection with e-mails *Perceptual and Motor Skills* , **101**, 771-786 (2005)
- Sheldrake, R. The sense of being stared at , Part 1: Is it real or illusory? *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 12, 10-31 (2005)
- Sheldrake, R. The sense of being stared at, Part 2: Its implications for theories of vision. *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 12, 32-49 (2005)
- Sheldrake, R. The non-visual detection of staring *Journal of Consciousness Studies* 12, 117-126 (2005)

#### **Articles in books**

- Sheldrake, R. Telepathy and animal behavior. In: *Encyclopedia of Animal Behavior* (ed. Bekoff, M.) Vol 3, pp.1044-1051. Westport, CT : Greenwood Press (2004) (ISBN 0-313-33294-0)
- Sheldrake, R. Animal psi. In: *Parapsychology: Research on Exceptional Experiences* (ed. Henry, J.) pp. 114-122. London: Routledge (2005) (ISBN 0-415-21360-6)

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