

Experimenter effects and Psi performance using a digital autoganzfeld system

Results:

Sixteen experimenters conducted a total of 114 ganzfeld trials. Experimenter expectancy regarding the likely success of the experiment was manipulated so that half the experimenters were given a positive expectancy of success and half are given a negative expectancy. Experimenters' attitudes towards psi were also measured and classified as either 'high' or 'low'. The effects of these independent variables upon participants' confidence of success and actual performance on a ganzfeld-ESP task were assessed. The overall hit-rate was 34.2% (39/114 trials) and was statistically significant ($p=0.02$), although there was the potential for optional stopping.

A 2 x 2 ANOVA revealed no significant main effect of experimenter attitudes towards psi upon psi scores (measured by Z-scores), $F(1, 113)=0.32$, $p=0.58$. Nor was there a significant main effect of experimenter expectancy, $F(1,113)=2.35$, $p=0.13$. No significant interaction was found between experimenter attitudes towards psi and experimenter expectancy, $F(1,113)=0.08$, $p=0.78$.

A 2 x 2 ANOVA revealed no significant main effect of experimenter attitudes towards psi upon Receivers' confidence scores, $F(1, 105)=1.64$, $p=0.20$, or Senders' confidence scores, $F(1, 103)=3.09$, $p=0.08$, although it approached significance for Senders' confidence. Whilst there was also no significant main effect of experimenter expectancy upon Receivers' confidence, $F(1,105)=0.23$, $p=0.64$, there was a significant effect of experimenter expectancy upon Senders' confidence, $F(1, 103)=7.06$, $p=0.009$. No significant interaction was found between experimenter attitudes towards psi and experimenter expectancy for either Receivers' confidence, $F(1,105)=0.91$, $p=0.34$, or Senders' confidence, $F(1, 103)=0.89$, $p=0.35$.

Published work:

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