

## **Experimenter Effect and Replication in Psi Research**

### **ABSTRACT:**

The issue of replication has been a long-standing challenge for parapsychology, with different experimenters obtaining different results using similar protocols. This study addressed this challenge through the examination of experimenter and participant expectancies about psi and their impact on the outcome of a psi task. The meta-study involved an international collaboration of teachers, student experimenters, and experimental volunteers, who made use of a standardized psi protocol involving precognition that has been the focus of a number of replication attempts and that allows for a systematic collection of data under well-controlled conditions (Bem, 2011). It included 12 different laboratories across 32 experimenters and 512 participants. While the preregistered hypothesis that was assessed on a participant basis did not show a significant psi effect, when statistical power was increased by using a single trial analysis, the primary hypothesis was highly significant. The effect was also significant for experiments conducted in the English language, rather than through translations of the protocol. The results did not support a correlation between study outcome and experimenter expectancy. Overall, these results support the feasibility of a multi-laboratory collaboration and show that single trial analysis might be more appropriate and powerful to process these types of data. A conceptual replication is now underway.

### **Keywords**

Replication, Psi, Expectancy, Experimenter effects, Priming

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