

Experimenter effect and replication in psi research: Round II of a global initiative

ABSTRACT:

Background

This study addressed the replication problem in parapsychology through the examination of experimenter and participant belief in psi and their impact on the outcome of a psi task.

Aims

This experiment involves a modified version of the previous attempt where we are influencing expectancies of experimenters and subjects. In this experiment, after showing either randomized pro or anti-psi statements (for participants) and videos (for experimenters), we are assessing the experimenters' and/or participants' expectation using questionnaires.

Method

This study made use of a standardized psi protocol developed by Daryl Bem that has been the focus of several recent replication attempts and that allows for a systematic collection of data under well-controlled conditions. The study required no instrumentation beyond a desktop computer, thirty minutes per session, and requiring statistical analyses no more complex than a t-test across sessions or participants. Specifically, the replication protocol tested the retroactive priming aspect of experiment 4 of Bem, 2011) by examining reaction time for congruent or incongruent pairing of words and pictures.

Results and Conclusion

The results of the psi task are the dependent measure for both the psi replication attempts and for the experimenters' and subjects' expectancy effects. The pre-registered hypothesis did show a trend in the expected direction for the psi replication ($p=0.055$, one tailed) but not for the experimenter effect. These results will be published at the PA conference 2018, and will be compiled with results from experiment 233/12 and 189/16 in a peer reviewed and indexed journal article.

Keywords

Priming, Expectancy effect, Experimenter effect, Retrocausation

Researcher's Contacts:

Email: mjmschlitz@gmail.com