

## **Individual differences in psychosocial and neurological predictors of surveillance detection via extrasensory means**

### **ABSTRACT:**

Many people have turned to see someone behind them due to a 'sense' they were being watched, despite there being no conventional means via which this could be detected (Sheldrake, 2003). The most popular explanation for these events is that extrasensory awareness was evolutionarily advantageous and may have developed during an era in which survival depended on such capabilities (Sheldrake, 2005).

Evidence supporting such extrasensory abilities would have enormous implications for science, yet experiments concerning individuals' ability to detect attention which they could not be aware of via conventional senses has previously been restricted to scopaesthesia - a phenomenon in which people respond via non-conventional means to being the subject of another person's gaze (Sheldrake 2003). However, this new investigation furthered the research by also incorporating the previously uninvestigated sense of being listened to. The existence of these abilities was measured via a) participants' self-reports, b) their psychophysiological reactions determined by electrodermal activity, and c) differences in their behaviour.

Analysis of the data revealed individuals to be able to self-report surveillance they could not be aware of via conventional senses, and that such surveillance could alter peoples' behaviour. Perhaps the most surprising finding however was that stress may be a necessary element for effective research to be conducted in this area. When similar results were found following a field experiment based on the laboratory research, the researcher developed a theory that stress or threat could be an essential variable for future research related to this topic, and that it should be as considered in real-world environments.

### **Keywords**

Scopaesthesia, Remote starting, Extrasensory, Anomalous experiences, Nonconventional senses

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