

True Precognition

Results:

Both experiments assessed the possibility of “true precognition”. Before a participant took part in either study, 5 stocks were randomly selected and stored by computer. The closing prices of these stocks on a prespecified future date provided an entry point into a random number table to determine the future target. Hence participants would have to use precognition, rather than any other form of psi, to perform better than chance.

Postal Study

Participants tried to gain impressions at home about a picture they would later receive through the post and mailed their impressions to the experimenter. The experimenter then sent them a random set of 4 pictures. Participants rated each picture out of 100 as to its likeness to their impressions and returned their pictures and ratings. Two days later, the experimenter looked up the closing prices of the relevant stocks to determine which picture the participant should receive. The results were at chance ($N=80$, $z=0$, $p=.5$), indicating that participants were unable to use precognition.

WWW Study

Participants tried to gain impressions at home about a picture they would later see over the WWW. After gaining their impressions, participants went to a website with 4 pictures in random order. Participants entered by each picture a description of any similarities between that picture and their impressions and also submitted a percentage rating as above. Two days later, the experimenter looked up the closing prices of the relevant stocks to determine which picture the participant should see. The experimenter emailed the participant the WWW address of the target picture. The results were at chance ($N=159$, $z=-0.28$, $p=.78$), indicating that participants were unable to use precognition.

Published work:

Steinkamp, F. (2003). Does precognition foresee the future? Series 5, A laboratory replication. Series 6 and WWW replication. In *Proceedings of Presented Papers: The Parapsychological Association 46th Annual Convention* (pp. 257-268).

Steinkamp, F. (2005). Does precognition foresee the future? Series 4: A postal replication. *Journal of Parapsychology*, 69(2), 341-351.

Steinkamp, F. (2006). Telepathy: Or, how do I know that this thought is mine? In A. Batthyany & A. Elitzur (Eds.), *Mind and its place in the world: Non-reductionist approaches to the ontology of consciousness* (pp. 145-166). Frankfurt, Germany: Ontos Verlag.

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Steinkamp, F. (2005). Forced-choice ESP experiments: Their past and their future. In M. Thalbourne & L. Storm (Eds.), *Parapsychology in the 21st century: Essays on the future of psychical research* (pp. 124-163). Jefferson, NC: McFarland.

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