Psi at home: An adaptable protocol for psi experiments with selected cohorts

ABSTRACT:

Background
Replication of results and theory development are two major challenges for psi research. Replicability is arguably more critical since advancing theory requires reliable experimental input.

Aims
Psi@Home (P@H) seeks a better platform for psi experiments. In our view, protocols must produce effects reliably and be practical to implement. While proven psi protocols exist (e.g. the Ganzfeld), experiments are onerous to replicate. A well-powered Ganzfeld replication needs >500 sessions, takes several years to complete and requires considerable prior expertise. This sets a high bar in terms of resources for researchers within and outside the field. We innovate on 3 essential protocol elements: subjects, the experimental setting and the psi task. P@H establishes selected cohorts who are available for multiple experiments. Experimental sessions are done independently at home on a downloaded app which removes geographical limitations and allows a comfortable setting. The app can be modified to create different experiments. P@H provides protocols that are flexible and transferable to other researchers.

Method
Develop P@H for data acquisition and cohort management.
Test with a meditator cohort.
Test transferability with surrogate researchers who create an open cohort.

Results
Studies of a binary precognitive task were completed with 2 cohorts in 6 weeks. Pre-registered tests (meditators, open): H1) Variance>1 (p=.22; .66); H2) Mean>0.5 (p=.83; .08); H3) V(med)>V(open) (p=.04). Variance was highly significant (p=.00004) on 90 sessions collected during recruitment.

Conclusions
We have shown that P@H is a viable platform for psi collaborations. Work is needed to better stabilize psi effects.

Keywords
Psi, Precognition, Replicability, Cohort, Meditation

Published Work:

Bancel, P. A., Boban, J., Bensahra, A., & Varvoglis, M. (in press). A forced-choice precognition experiment with selected cohorts. *Journal of Anomalous Experience and Cognition*.

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