

The Limits of Precognition

Results:

An earlier postal experiment by Steinkamp (Bial 11/96) examined whether true precognition was possible by comparing 2 conditions. In the clairvoyance condition, targets were selected by a pseudorandom number generator before participants did the trials at home; in the true precognition condition, targets were selected using an algorithm on prespecified stock market and temperature figures on a prespecified future date.

It was thought unlikely that participants could use either psychokinesis or other real-time psi to perform successfully in the true precognition condition. Results were significant in the clairvoyance condition ($p = .04, 1 - t$) and only at chance in the true precognition one. The difference in performance between the 2 conditions was significant ($p = .01, 1 - t$). This article presents 2 replication studies using different settings. The 1st, in the laboratory, gave almost significantly high scores in the precognition condition ($p = .06, 2 - t$) but only chance scores in the clairvoyance condition, with no significant difference between the 2 conditions. The 2nd, conducted over the World Wide Web, produced scores tending toward psi missing in the precognition condition ($p = .08, 2 - t$), chance scores in the clairvoyance condition, and an almost significant difference between the 2 conditions ($p = .07, 2 - t$).

Published Works:

Steinkamp, F. (2001). Does precognition foresee the future? Two conceptual replications. Series 2: In the Laboratory . Series 3: On the WWW. *Journal of Parapsychology*, **65**, 17-40.

Researcher's Contacts:

Department of Psychology
The University of Edinburgh
7 George Square
EDINBURGH
EH8 9JZ
UK

Phone: +44 (0)131 650 3316
Fax: +44 (0)131 650 3369
E-mail: f.steinkamp@ed.ac.uk