

Automated testing for telepathy using emails and telephone calls

Results:

In previous research, we found that many people seem to know who is calling or sending an email or SMS message. Hit rates were above chance in randomized tests.

In this project, we carried out automated tests using emails or telephone calls. Subjects registered online, giving their name, sex and age, the names of three contacts, people they knew well, and email addresses or mobile telephone numbers of all participants.

The computer then selected one of the contacts at random and sent her a message by email or SMS asking her to contact the subject through an email address or telephone number provided on the message. After she had responded, the system contacted the subject asking him to guess from which of his three contacts he was about to receive a message. After the guess was made, the email message was delivered or the telephone call connected. Subjects thus received immediate feedback. After a random time delay this process was repeated until 6 trials had been completed.

In the email telepathy test, in over 400 trials, the hit rate was 41.8%, significantly above the 33.3% level expected by chance ($p=.0001$). In the telephone telepathy test, in more than 1,900 trials, the hit rate was 43.0%, very significantly above the as 33.3% expected by chance ($p < 1 \times 10^{-9}$). There was no significant difference between the hit rates with male and female subjects. Both these experiments were also carried out in a precognitive form, in which the sender of the message was selected at random only after the subject had made his guess. In the precognitive email experiment the results were at chance level. In the precognitive telephone experiment the hit rate was 33.8%, only slightly above chance (with 548 trials, $p=.03$).

Published work:

Full papers:

An automated telepathy test online

Sheldrake, R. and Beeharee, A. A rapid online telepathy test. *Psychological Reports* (2009) 104, 957-970.

An automated telepathy test using mobile phones

Sheldrake, R, Avraamides, L. and Novak, M. Sensing the sending of SMS messages: an automated test. *Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing* (2009) **5**, 272-276.

An automated telepathy test using emails

Sheldrake, R. and Avraamides, L. An automated test for telepathy in connection with emails. *Journal of Scientific Exploration* (2009), 23, 29-36.

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Areas of interest:

The extended mind, Telepathy in people and animals, The evolution of telepathy,
Holistic biology

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