

Precognition – Possibilities, Probabilities and Events

Results:

Literature Review

This paper details a research program for determining whether precognition is of a fixed or a changeable future.

Meta-analysis of experiments comparing clairvoyance and precognition

The 22 studies yielded significant evidence for both clairvoyance and precognition with no difference in effect size (ES) between clairvoyance (ES = .009) and precognition (ES = .010). Thus the meta-analysis yielded no evidence that precognition is explicable through a clairvoyance and inference model.

Survey.

167 first-hand precognitive experiences were submitted by respondents. People who acted on their premonitions fell into two distinct groups. One group acted if they foresaw events that could be prevented (e.g., a car crash). The other group scored low on the neuroticism scale and acted on their experience irrespective of the type of event foreseen. The majority of respondents were women and the experiences were usually about men, regardless of the respondent's sex. Most experiences were dreams. The study replicated a previous finding that women over 45 who reported having had their first precognitive experience early on in life were significantly more likely to have fewer children than those who did not report having had their first precognitive experience until later.

Postal Experiment comparing clairvoyance and precognition

Overall the results were at chance. However, when the clairvoyance and precognition trials were considered separately, the clairvoyance condition yielded significant results (N=60, p=.05) whereas the precognition one was at chance (N=59, p=.5). The difference between the two conditions was significant (p=.01). Thus this experiment yielded no evidence for precognition.

Published Work:

Steinkamp, F., Milton, J. & Morris, R.L. (1998). A meta-analysis of forced-choice experiments comparing clairvoyance and precognition. *Journal of Parapsychology*, **62**, 193-218.

Steinkamp, F. (1999). Testing clairvoyance and precognition by manipulating probabilities: A conceptual assessment of the experimental literature. *Journal of Parapsychology*, **63**, 99-130.

Steinkamp, F. (2000). Does precognition foresee the future? A postal experiment examining the possibility of true precognition. *Journal of Parapsychology*, **64**, 3-18.

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Steinkamp, F. (2000). Acting on the future: A survey of precognitive experiences. *Journal of the American Society for Psychological Research*, 95, 37-59.

Steinkamp, F. (submitted). "Backwards Causation, Precognition and the Intervention Paradox". [earlier version can be found in *The Parapsychological Association 40th Annual Convention. Proceedings of Presented Papers*, 410-425].

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