

02687. Stevenson, Ian. Guest editorial: Why investigate spontaneous cases? *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, 1987 (Apr), 81(2), 101-109. 23 refs

Psychical researchers are showing renewed interest in spontaneous cases, but few newcomers to this branch of our subject have had experience in the actual investigation of cases. What is worse, many do not seem to understand the importance of investigating cases instead of just accepting them as submitted by correspondents or turned up in surveys. Many cases in which someone makes a claim for a paranormal communication prove, on investigation, to provide no evidence supporting the claim. Moreover, uninvestigated cases are likely to have important omissions in the information provided when they are submitted. These deficiencies may lead to erroneous conclusions. However, investigated cases that are voluntarily reported to a research center may also have biases and be unrepresentative of the full range of experiences we need to study. We should conduct new surveys of spontaneous cases in which the cases turned up will be thoroughly investigated. - DA

02688. Palmer, John. Have we established psi? *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, 1987 (Apr), 81(2), 111-123. 26 refs

To address the question, "Have we established psi?" one must distinguish between psi as a scientific anomaly and psi as a "paranormal" process transcending generally accepted limiting principles of nature. It is maintained that psi as anomaly has been established, because conventional science has yet to provide adequate conventional explanations for the critical mass of ostensibly paranormal experiences. However, psi as paranormal process has not been established, not because the research methods have failed to eliminate all conventional alternatives, but because no particular paranormal theory has yet achieved adequate empirical verification. Verification of psi in the latter sense requires a shift from a negative research approach, in which the top priority is elimination of conventional hypotheses, to a positive approach, in which the top priorities are to get the anomalies to occur and to uncover their correlates. Most psi experiments are, like spontaneous cases, documented accounts of anomalies that provide a subject matter to be explained but explain nothing themselves. Nonetheless, experimental psi research can point to important accomplishments, which include demonstrating that the anomalies occur in laboratories, reducing the plausibility of conventional hypotheses, uncovering quasi-lawful correlates, and generating testable models. - DA

02689. Cook, Emily Williams. The survival question: Impasse or crux? *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, 1987 (Apr), 81(2), 125-139. 53 refs

This paper examines the present status of research on the question of survival of human personality after death. Parapsychologists have adopted several strategies for dealing with the current impasse between the two major hypotheses, but the approach that remains to be tried is to implement the many lines of investigation that have been suggested by previous research. It is concluded that only serious testing of the rival hypotheses with renewed research will determine whether survival research is at an impasse or at a crux that will eventually lead to new knowledge. - DA

02690. Roney-Dougal, Serena M. A comparison of psi and subliminal perception: Exploratory and follow-up

studies. *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, 1987 (Apr), 81(2), 141-181. 9 figs; 45 refs; 9 tables

The aim of these studies was to explore various aspects of response to subliminal and psi stimuli under Ganzfeld conditions. Physiological and cognitive aspects of the process were measured, together with several personality and cognitive tests. The participants were volunteers, some of whom previously had worked briefly with the experimenter. The stimuli were prerecorded, thematically related words, presented via headphones either to the sender or to the participant according to the experimental condition. Galvanic skin response and the participant's mentation were recorded throughout each session. Personality and cognitive tests were administered prior to the session. In the exploratory study, the participants did not score significantly greater than chance on either the subliminal or the psi conditions. The participants' overall scoring was suggestively related to their attitude ( $p = .075$ ) and to their cognitive style ( $p = .03$ ). The participants' attitudes correlated with their "openness-to-experience" rating ( $p = .018$ ) and with their cognitive style ( $p = .02$ ), indicating that factors other than chance may have been present. In the follow-up study, overall on both ranking and rating sets of data, the target was chosen significantly above chance (sum-of-ranks = 178,  $p = .018$ ; rating  $t = 2.487$ , 79 df,  $p = .007$ , both one-tailed). Breaking this overall score into its component parts, the rating data alone are significantly above chance for both psi and subliminal perception ( $t = 1.736$ , 39 df,  $p = .04$ ), and the ranking data are suggestive (sum-of-ranks = 89,  $p = .069$ ). The participants' scores were related to their attitudes ( $p = .05$ ) but not to their cognitive styles ( $p = .31$ ). The participants' attitudes were related to their "openness-to-experience" ( $p = .001$ ) and to their cognitive style ( $p = .059$ ), thus supporting trends indicated in the exploratory study. These results suggest that in an experience of this type, at the level of cognitive decision (lexical choice of target), subliminal and psi perception cannot readily be distinguished. - DA

02691. Braud, William. Dealing with displacement. *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, 1987 (Jul), 81(3), 209-231. 46 refs

The history of the displacement effect, in which a target other than the intended one is psychically perceived or influenced, is traced from its accidental discovery by Abbot in 1938 to its occurrence in contemporary psi investigations. Evidence suggestive of displacement is reviewed in several contexts: restricted-response ESP experiments, free-response ESP experiments, and PK experiments. Factors influencing displacement are discussed; these factors appear to coalesce into three major clusters of negativity, impatience, and distractability. A fourth displacement-enhancing factor, which could be termed "playfulness/curiosity/exploration," is proposed. A number of suggested methods for minimizing displacement are presented. Most of these methods are techniques for enhancing the salience of the intended target and decreasing the salience or distinctiveness of nontarget items. - DA

02692. Matlock, James G. Archives and psychical research. *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research*, 1987 (Jul), 81(3), 233-255. 86 refs

The importance of archives to the historian is well known. The value of archives for education is receiving increased recognition, but little attention has been paid to their potential contribution to scientific research. This paper emphasizes the place of archives in parapsychology. Examples are given of the use of primary materials in scholarly writings and laboratory studies. The require-

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