

The Investigation of Telepathy in Animals and Humans

Results:

1. Many people claim to have thought about someone for no apparent reason, who then called on the telephone. Pamela Smart and I carried out experiments to test whether people really could tell who was calling. Each participant had four potential callers, and when the telephone rang had to guess who was calling. By chance the success rate would have been 25%. In a total of 842 trials, involving 66 participants, the overall success rate was 42%. This effect was hugely significant statistically ($p < 1 \times 10^{-20}$). We ruled out the possibility of cheating by videotaping the participants continuously.

Success rates did not fall off even when callers were 18.000 km away.

With familiar callers the success rate was 61% ($p = 1 \times 10^{-13}$). With unfamiliar callers the success rate was at chance levels. When they were confident about their guesses, participants were indeed more successful than when they were not confident.

2. Aimée Morgana and I continued our studies of her language-using African Grey parrot, N'kisi, who seemed to respond to her thoughts and intentions telepathically. In a series of trials, Aimée and the parrot were in different rooms, on different floors, both videotaped continuously. At the beginning of each trial, Aimée opened an envelope containing a photograph correspond to one of 19 prespecified key words, and looked at it for two minutes. N'kisi said key words in 71 trials. He scored 23 hits: the key words he said corresponded to the target pictures far more than expected by chance (by a Randomized Permutation Analysis (RPA), $p < 0.0003$). N'kisi repeated key words more when they were hits than when they were misses. These findings support the hypothesis that N'kisi was reacting telepathically.

Published work:

Sheldrake, R. Experiments on the sense of being stared at: The elimination of possible artefacts. *Journal of the Society for Psychological Research* 65, 122-137 (2001).

Sheldrake, R. Research on the feeling of being stared at. *Skeptical Inquirer* March/April, 58-61 (2001).

Sheldrake, R. and Brown, D. The anticipation of telephone calls: A survey in California. *Journal of Parapsychology* 65, 147-156 (2001)

Sheldrake, R. Personally speaking. *New Scientist*, July 21, 48-49 (2001).

Sheldrake, R. Apparent telepathy between babies and nursing mothers: A survey. *Journal of the Society for Psychological Research* 66, 181-185. (2002)

Sheldrake, R. and Morgana, A. Testing a language-using parrot for telepathy. *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 17, pp. 601-615 (2003)

Sheldrake, R. and Smart, P. Experimental tests for telephone telepathy. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* **67**, 184-199 (2003)

Sheldrake, R. and Smart, P. Videotaped experiments on telephone telepathy *Journal of Parapsychology* **67**, 187-206, (2003)

Researcher's Contacts:

Dr Rupert Sheldrake
20 Willow Road, London NW3 1TJ, England

Web site: www.sheldrake.org

E-mail: ars@dircon.co.uk

Fax: +44 20 7435 4331