

DELAYED PK WITH MATTHEW MANNING:
PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS AND FAILURE TO CONFIRM

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During the spring of 1977 a number of exploratory psi experiments were conducted with Mr. Matthew Manning at the University of California, Davis. This report describes the series of experiments in this group that the first author (J.P.) was primarily responsible for.

While living in Davis, Mr. Manning developed a unique rapport with a female graduate student, hereafter referred to as "Miss X", who was interested in parapsychological research. Mr. Manning believed that he could influence Miss X in subtle ways; e.g., make her scratch her ear by concentrating on her doing this. Miss X reported unique sensations or "energy" in Mr. Mannings presence, and she reported similar sensations and electrical equipment behaving erratically in her presence several weeks after he had left.

This relationship encouraged us at the time to pursue a series of experiments to determine whether Mr. Manning could transfer his psychic abilities to Miss X, who had demonstrated no such abilities previously. Specifically, we assessed Miss X's performance on a forced-choice ESP task.

PILOT EXPERIMENTS

All experiments to be reported in this article were conducted on a machine called ADEPT (Redington and Tart, 1976). A random event generator (REG) selects one of ten numbers which is presented to a sender on a circular display. The percipient, located in a different room, makes his response on a similar display and receives immediate feedback of the correct target after each trial. Because

the automated recording feature of ADEPT was not functioning at the time of the experiment, targets, responses, and hits had to be recorded by hand.

The initial pilot testing consisted of simply determining whether two volunteer subjects, not including Miss X, could achieve significant positive scores on ADEPT with Mr. Manning attempting to send them energy. J.P. served as agent. The results were disappointing, but Mr. Manning did not feel the rapport with these two subjects that he felt with Miss X.

Pilot testing with Miss X began with a control run, which she requested. Mr. Manning sat in J.P.'s office while Miss X completed one run (20 trials) on ADEPT. J.P. and C.T.T. were in the sender's chamber (a floor plan of our laboratory is presented in Figure 1), J.P. serving as sender and C.T.T. as recorder of the data. Miss X obtained seven hits, the highest number of hits ever obtained on a single ADEPT run to our knowledge (exact $P = .004$). This run was immediately followed by three experimental runs, which were conducted similarly to the control run except that Mr. Manning now lay on the bed in the receiver's room attempting to send energy to Miss X. Her scores on these runs were 4, 3, and 2, respectively.

The next "pilot" experiment was originally intended to be part of a formal series consisting of five sessions and four runs per session. Each run within a session was to be conducted in one of four conditions identifying a different mental state on Mr. Manning's part:

- (1) Switched On/High Aim. Mr. Manning sends energy to Miss X intending her to obtain a large number of hits.
- (2) Switched On/Low Aim. Same as (1), except Mr. Manning intends Miss X to obtain no hits.
- (3) Mind Clear. Mr. Manning tries to clear his mind during the run. This is the state he said he was in during the run where Miss X had obtained seven hits.
- (4) Reading (Control). Mr. Manning reads a magazine during the run.

The order of runs within a session was determined in a pseudo-random fashion. Prior to the experiment, Mr. Manning devised a code translating each condition to one of the four playing-card suits. Two copies of the code were given to J.P. One copy was placed in a sealed opaque envelope that was not opened until the entire experiment was over. The second copy was made available to Mr. Manning before each session to refresh his memory. No one else was shown the code until the experiment was over. Before each

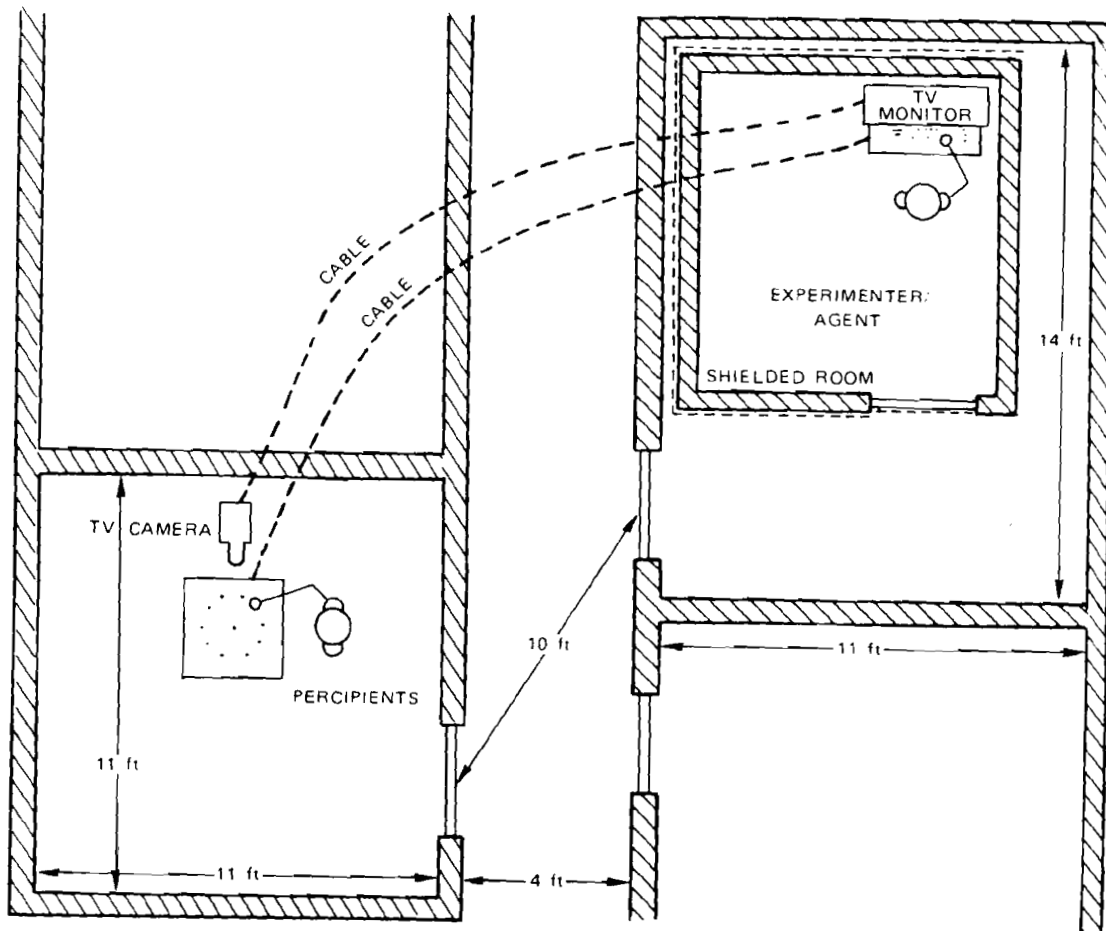


FIGURE 1

session, D.R. had Mr. Manning pick playing cards from a standard shuffled deck until one card of each suit had been selected. The order in which the suits were picked determined in a straight forward manner the order of conditions within the session.

The design called for Mr. Manning to remain in J.P.'s office during the runs. Pilot testing had suggested that good results could be obtained with Mr. Manning in a different room than Miss X, and this procedure had the added advantage of preventing Miss X from obtaining sensory cues that might provide information about the order of conditions. J.P. served as sender and D.R. as recorder.

The results of the first session were disappointing: only seven hits over four runs, one less than expected by chance.

At this point, Miss X insisted that the experiment would not work unless Mr. Manning was in the room with her. J.P. thus decided to abandon the remaining planned sessions. Another pilot session was then conducted, duplicating the procedure of the previous experiment except that Mr. Manning now lay on the bed in the percipient's room.

The results of this second session were somewhat more promising, at least to the extent that Miss X obtained five hits on the high-aim run. None of the results were statistically significant, however.

EXPERIMENT ONE

METHOD

A formal experiment was undertaken consisting of six sessions. The procedure was essentially identical to the last pilot session, with Mr. Manning and Miss X in the same room. Miss X was seated with her back facing Mr. Manning, but there is no way to conclusively rule out the possibility of subliminal awareness of sensory cues that might have conveyed information about the order of conditions. Although the experimenters could see, by means of the video apparatus in the sender's chamber, the area surrounding ADEPT's receiver console in the receiver's room, they could not monitor the room totally. At this stage of the investigation, it seemed more important to promote Miss X's confidence to see if significant results could be obtained. If we were successful, more elaborate procedures to eliminate sensory cues could be introduced in replication attempts. It should be stressed that we know of no way either Mr. Manning or Miss X could have obtained information about the target sequence by sensory means.

Each session consisted of four runs, conducted in succession without intervening breaks. Miss X preferred to respond quickly, so intertrial intervals were made as short as possible, generally less than 10 seconds.

J.P. and D.R. were in the sender's chamber, with D.R. serving as the official sender. Each made independent records of targets and responses. The two records agreed perfectly except for two trials, both of which had been correctly designated as misses.

The six sessions were conducted in three blocks of two sessions each. The blocks occurred on the afternoon and evening of May 30 and the afternoon of May 31. Two pre-designated "pilot" sessions, not included in the formal analyses, were conducted on the afternoon of May 31.

RESULTS

The results, illustrated in Table 1, reveal generally chance scoring, the only exception being session five. In this session, Miss X obtained five hits in each of the two conditions where psi-hitting was to be expected, the high-aim and mind-clearing conditions. However, analysis of variance revealed no significant effects (See Table 2).

Perusal of the target sequences from the experiment suggested a possible singlet bias which proved to be significant upon analysis of the sessions pooled ($\chi^2 (9) = 17.02, p < .05$); the most notable feature of this bias was an excess of eights. This eight bias was primarily attributable to two runs which contained seven and eight eights, respectively. Each of these runs was the fourth run of the first session of its block.

TABLE 1

Number of hits on ADEPT per 20-trial run
as a function of mental state (Exp. I)

Session	High-Aim	Low-Aim	Mind Clear	Control	Total
1	1	1	0	1	3
2	4	2	0	0	6
3	1	2	0	2	5
4	1	3	2	0	6
5	5	1	5	2	13
6	0	4	0	1	5
Total	12	13	7	6	

TABLE 2

Summary of Analysis of Variance
(Exp. I)

Source	SS	df	MS	F
C (Conditions)	6.17	3	2.06	0.84
S (Sessions)	14.83	5	2.97	1.21
C x S	36.83	15	2.46	

EXPERIMENT TWO

METHOD

Because of the possibility that Mr. Manning might have exerted a PK effect on ADEPT's REG in Experiment One, an experiment was undertaken to test his PK ability on ADEPT more directly. Mr. Manning's task was to try to influence ADEPT to produce either an excess of eights or an excess of twos (the least frequently occurring target in Experiment One.) The experiment again consisted of six sessions, three blocks of two sessions each. During the first and third blocks, Mr. Manning aimed for eights in the first session and twos in the second. This order was reversed in the second block.

Mr. Manning responded on each trial by pressing the number on the receiver's console that he was trying to cause ADEPT to generate, thus scoring a hit whenever he was successful. As in Experiment One, both D.R. and J.P. made independent records of the target and response sequences from inside the sender's chamber, with D.R. serving as sender. The two records matched perfectly. Miss X was not involved with the experiment.

The runs in each session succeeded each other without a break. Targets were generated as rapidly as possible, consistent with accurate recording.

The first two blocks were conducted on the afternoon of June 1 (separated by about 45 minutes), and the third block occurred on the morning of June 4.

RESULTS

The results did not reveal any significant trends, although there were more eights than twos in the eight-aim condition and the reverse in the two-aim condition.

However, there again was one run in which a single target number was generated eight times. Again, it was the fourth run of the first session of a block--this time, the first block. Curiously enough, now that Mr. Manning was aiming for eights, the high biased target was the nine.

DISCUSSION

Additional analyses of the data suggested a possible explanation of the singlet biases in the two formal experiments. In Experiment One, both biased runs occurred two runs after the "low-aim" run. The low-aim condition is of particular interest because it was the only one of the four conditions in which Mr. Manning attempted to influence ADEPT rather than Miss X directly.³ Of the 24 runs in Experiment One, there was only one other run that came two runs after a low-aim run but did not appear biased. This run occurred in the second session of a block, whereas both biased runs occurred in the first session of a block.

The above target biases could have conceivably resulted from a delayed PK effect, i.e., a time-lag between attempted PK and its manifestation. Such effects have been reported in other PK experiments (cf., Stanford, 1977) as well as in a metal bending experiment in which Mr. Manning was the subject (Whitten, 1974). Unfortunately, we had not recorded the times at which individual runs began and ended in Experiment One. However, by repeating the experimental procedure informally, J.P. estimated that the interval between the end of one run and the beginning of the run two ahead was approximately 2½ minutes.

We then turned to Experiment Two, where we may assume that Mr. Manning was attempting to influence ADEPT throughout.⁴ The biased run in this case was the fourth run of a block, while PK was being attempted as early as the first run. Thus two runs intervened between the initial PK attempt and the manifestation of target bias in Experiment Two, as compared to just one intervening run in Experiment One. This apparent inconsistency was resolved when we noted that there was a delay of approximately 30 seconds between runs in Experiment One that did not occur in Experiment Two. Given this fact, our estimation procedure indicated that the delay between the end of the first run and the beginning of the fourth run in

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Experiment Two was approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes.

To sum up, in each of the three cases where a significant singlet bias (defined as at least seven of one number in a 20-trial run) was found in a target sequence, it followed an attempt by Mr. Manning to influence ADEPT by approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. The effect only occurred in the first session of a block. Given these constraints, the effect was noted in three of five possible occasions in the two experiments.

EXPERIMENT THREE

METHOD

On the morning of June 6, an experiment was conducted to verify the possible delayed PK effect discussed above. The design was similar to that of Experiment One, which seemed to have been a little more successful than Experiment Two in eliciting the effect.

Mr. Manning was asked to duplicate his state of mind in the low-aim condition of Experiment One during a single run on ADEPT. Following this run, there was a $1\frac{1}{2}$ minute break followed by two or three additional runs. The second of these additional runs began exactly $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes after the completion of the low-aim run.

Mr. Manning was told that during the additional runs he should simply watch the receiver's console of ADEPT but not attempt to influence it. This procedure was introduced because there is evidence suggesting that positive results are most likely to occur if the subject receives immediate feedback of the target sequences (Schmidt, 1976). We did not inform Mr. Manning beforehand of the experimental hypothesis.

There was no reason to believe that Miss X's presence had anything to do with the effect we were attempting to verify, so we did not feel it necessary to burden her with additional experimental duties. (For example, she was not present for Experiment Two where the effect occurred). Thus, a graduate student in the Department of Psychology served as a receiver. Another graduate student served as the timer, and he was stationed in the sender's chamber. As before, D.R. and J.P. were in the sender's chamber making independent records of the target and response sequences, with D.R. serving as sender.

J.P. notified the timer at the end of the low-aim run to start his stopwatch, at which time J.P. immediately left the sender's room and knocked on the door of the receiver's room. This was a signal to Mr. Manning that the run was over and that he should return to a normal or "switched off" mental state. J.P. then returned

immediately to the sender's room. The timer signalled at the end of $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes to notify J.P. and D.R. to begin the additional runs.

It was predicted that during the second additional run one of the ten targets would appear at least six times. A secondary prediction was that this target would be "eight". The third additional run was to be omitted if the previous run confirmed the main hypothesis.

RESULTS

None of the target sequences showed any evidence of bias at the singlet level. Thus our hypothesis was not supported.

EXPERIMENT FOUR

METHOD

Following a half-hour coffee break, a second attempt was made to confirm the hypothesis. The procedure was identical to that of Experiment Three, except that Mr. Manning was asked on the first run to simply try to influence ADEPT by means of any mental state he chose, not necessarily that of the low-aim condition of Experiment One. Also, Dr. Aaron Goldman, a visiting Professor in the Department of Mathematics, served as timer. A resident Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Dr. Howard Weiner, also was present in the sender's chamber as an observer.

RESULTS

The hypothesis again was not supported, as there was no evidence of singlet bias on the crucial run. However, six fives appeared in the target sequence of the first run, the run during which Mr. Manning was attempting to exert an influence.

DISCUSSION

The failure to confirm the possible delayed PK effect in Experiments Three and Four means that the pattern of post-hoc effects observed in the previous two experiments can only be considered suggestive. The strong biases in the target sequences are not evidential by themselves, as they could be attributable to conventional machine artifacts. Any evidentiality they possess derives from their correlation with the mental states of Mr. Manning.

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Such biases did not occur in other ADEPT runs conducted before and during Mr. Manning's visit. A string of 1000 control targets produced by D.R. before Mr. Manning's arrival revealed no significant singlet or doublet biases. It yielded only one sequence of four identical numbers in a row, and no longer sequences. Of possibly greater relevance are the results of 38 ESP "training" runs on ADEPT conducted during Matthew's visit a few days before the experiments in question. Mr. Manning served as percipient on 30 of these runs and as sender on the other eight; in none of these runs was he, to our knowledge, attempting to exert a PK influence on ADEPT. A single digit never appeared more than three times in any of these runs. Long strings of single digits have not been noted on ADEPT in experiments conducted soon after Mr. Manning left, but formal analyses of these data have yet to be completed.

If any point stands out in this series of experiments, it is the "perversity" of the few significant effects that were obtained. The clearest example of this perversity is the fact that the only run on which Miss X achieved a significant score was a designed control run during which Mr. Manning was not trying to exert psychic influence. In Experiment One, Mr. Manning was unsuccessful in influencing Miss X's rate of scoring, but the target sequences (which would have needed to be random had we wanted to unequivocally interpret any success that Miss X did achieve) were biased. In Experiment Two, when Mr. Manning was aiming for eights, the bias appeared on nines. Only in Experiment Four did Mr. Manning achieve the effect he was aiming for, but in this case we were predicting a displacement! Displaced PK was also a factor in another experiment with a different device undertaken with Mr. Manning during his visit (Tart and Palmer, submitted for publication).

Needless to say, all this was rather frustrating to the experimenters, not to mention Mr. Manning himself. It is reminiscent of the function of PK in poltergeist disturbances, where uncontrolled PK produces frustrations for those in the immediate environment, albeit of a much greater magnitude than we had to put up with in the lab. Mr. Manning's experience with ADEPT in general was a frustrating one for him, and this frustration could have produced both a reservoir of psychic tension requiring an outlet and a latent or unconscious motivation to channel that tension in a manner that would exasperate those other persons most closely associated with the source of the frustration. The plausibility of this line of thinking is reinforced by the fact that Mr. Manning was the source of large-scale, apparent poltergeist disturbances as a child (Manning, 1974), and by evidence suggesting that poltergeist activity is a vehicle for expressing repressed or suppressed hostility toward others or oneself (Roll, 1977).

Of course, none of these speculations are supported by the kind of solid evidence we would like. If our hunches about the perversity of Mr. Manning's psi are correct, the experimenter is involved in a game of trying to outwit this perversity, a game in which he is at a distinct disadvantage. A more promising approach might be to create experimental situations that are challenging enough to Mr. Manning to engage his PK and not frustrating enough to send it off course. This was our objective in the present project; we hope future experimenters will be more successful in realizing it.

ABSTRACT

A series of forced-choice ESP and PK experiments was conducted with Mr. Matthew Manning. The project was initially designed to have Mr. Manning psychically influence another subject's ESP scoring on a ten-choice random event generator (ADEPT). Planned analyses were non-significant, but a tendency was observed for ADEPT to repeatedly generate a particular target number, beginning approximately 2½ minutes after Mr. Manning attempted to influence it. (Influencing ADEPT was one indirect method he had used to try to effect the other subject's ESP scoring). Two confirmatory series failed to replicate this finding.

NOTES

- 1 These effects suggest caution to anyone who may wish to conduct an experiment of this type in the future.
- 2 Mr. Manning insisted that none else besides himself know the code, lest that person be a possible source for an effect on Miss X.
- 3 Mr. Manning's instructions were simply to cause Miss X to get no hits. He chose to accomplish this objective by causing ADEPT to pick a number other than the one she would pick.
- 4 Although the object of Mr. Manning's focus was the same in Experiment Two as in the low-aim condition of Experiment One, we cannot say this with equal confidence regarding his state of mind. Before Experiment Three, described below, J.P. asked Mr. Manning in which of the four conditions of Experiment One was his state of mind most similar to that he entered in Experiment Two. We hoped he would say the low-aim condition; instead, he

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Whitten, J.L.

said the high-aim condition.

- 5 Our thanks to Mr. Henry Bennett for serving as the receiver and Mr. Fernando Fleitas for serving as the timer.
- 6 This procedure was introduced to cover the possibility that the effect occurred only on the last run of a block. The rationale behind this decision is complicated and will not be pursued further here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Manning for generously devoting his time and energy to these experiments.

At the time these experiments were undertaken, Dr. Palmer was Assistant Research Psychologist in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Davis.

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