

The telephone telepathy experiment

conducted by the Institute of Noetic Sciences, 625 2nd Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Who may participate: Adults 18 or older or minors with their parents' or guardians' permission. Individuals suffering from psychiatric disorders should consult with their doctor before participating.

Procedure: A web user watches a video and/or reads a description of the experiment, and then agrees to participate by clicking on a registration button. As part of this agreement he confirms if he/she uses a cell phone for this experiment, he/she will be responsible for any SMS text message charges that this study generates as notification messages.

After registering, the user enters the first name and telephone number of two friends on the website. The user is then instructed to call a toll-free 877 phone number begin the experiment. After this is completed, our web server calls the two friends and asks if they agree to participate in the study. Each friend responds by pressing one of three options on their phone keypad: (1) agree to participate, (2) do not agree to participate now but might agree later (3) choose not to participate at all. If one or both friends choose to not participate, then the experiment is canceled, the "not participate" phone numbers will not be called again, and the other friend and the user will be informed by a text message (if using a cell phone) that the experiment has been canceled.

If everyone has agreed to participate, then our web server starts the experiment. Calls will occur on average about every two to four minutes. Our web server calls all three participants at the same time and it asks each person who they think they are about to speak to. Each participant now has three choices: the first two corresponds to the other two persons involved in the experiment. The third one is used to indicate that they feel that they are not going to be connected with someone. They each make their choice by pressing a number (number one, number two or number three) on their phone. The number corresponding to each person will be communicated by the web server and may vary with each call. Once the choice is made, our web server randomly connects two of the three people and informs the third person that they are not going to be connected in that trial. The calling period for the next trial will begin after the two connected friends hang up.

All responses are stored on our server for subsequent data analysis. If one of the participants does not pick up the phone, the trial is considered incomplete. After six completed trials or 12 total trials (completed or not completed) have been recorded, the overall score of the group is sent by SMS text message to all participants using a cell phone. You may also see your results online by clicking on the results tab; only the person who initially registered the experiment and added two friends will be able to access the results online, and must be logged in to do so. The score is computed by averaging the accuracy of all participants in completed trials (not including control trials). Once the six-trial experiment is complete, users may then create another experiment with the same participants if they wish to do so. Users may also remove one or both of their friends' numbers and add other friends who may wish to participate.

Data collected in this study: The data collected in this study are for use in an Institute of Noetic Sciences research project studying one way that telepathy is said to occur in everyday life. Summary data may be used for presentations and discussions, or published in formal reports, but participants' names, emails and phone number information will not appear in any presentation or publication without their prior permission.