

## **TWO TRIALS OF A FREE-RESPONSE ESP TEST IN TWO GROUPS OF HYPNOTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY LOW/HIGH SCORES: A PILOT STUDY**

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We conducted two trials of a free-response ESP test. The aim was to determine if two groups of the hypnotically susceptible –the low and high scorers– scored differently in terms of psi hitting. The sample consisted of 101 subjects (69 females and 32 males) psi-believing participants. We used the Harvard Group Scale of Hypnotic Susceptibility which assesses the hypnotisability level when subjects are tested in groups. Participants were categorised as the “High HS” group (N = 20) and “Low HS” group (N = 81). We also used the following criteria to split the sample into three hitting groups: (1) No hits within two trials, one hit within two trials, and (3) Two hits within two trials. The difference among three groups (no hit, one hit, and two hits) was significant ( $p = .017$ , 1-tailed). The High HS group scored higher than the Low HS group, which scored at chance ( $p = .03$ , 1-tailed).

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## **TESTING THE THEORY OF MORPHIC RESONANCE USING RECOGNITION FOR CHINESE SYMBOLS: A FAILURE TO REPLICATE<sup>2</sup>**

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Rupert Sheldrake’s theory of morphic resonance suggests a means by which the thoughts or behaviours of physically isolated members of species can converge in a manner that would not be expected by other forms of learning such as imitation. The proposed mechanism is via what is termed a ‘morphogenetic field’, a purported collective record of intra-species learning which subsequently shapes and stabilises the behaviours of future generations of organisms. In the human realm, Sheldrake has suggested that the acquisition of language should be influenced by the morphic resonance of past speakers of the language. Parapsychological tests of the theory have thereby typically consisted of learning activities involving a language unfamiliar to the participant. For example, Robbins and Roe presented participants with 10 Chinese symbols, 5 of which were genuine Mandarin Chinese characters whereas the other 5 were imitative symbols designed to appear authentic but having no meaning to Mandarin Chinese speakers. Participants were subsequently given a memory task in which they were asked to identify the symbols they had seen from a larger pool of 20 symbols (10 genuine, 10 imitative) containing all of the 10 originally presented. As predicted by the theory, participants were found to correctly recall more of the genuine characters compared with the imitative characters, and also exhibited more false memories of the genuine

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<sup>2</sup> We are grateful to the Society for Psychical Research Grants Committee for their kind support of this project.