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Summary of Results for the KPU Study Registry

An implicit and explicit assessment of morphic resonance theory using Chinese characters.

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RESULTS

Only data from participants that answered ‘No’ to all five of the screening questions, and that fully completed all phases of both tasks as well as the post task attention check were included in the main analysis. As noted above this left data from 154 participants. In addition, all statistical tests were 2-tailed to allow for the possibility that morphic resonance *could* impair performance as opposed to enhance it (see, Ritchie et al., 2012). Descriptive data for performance on both the implicit and explicit tasks can be seen in Table 1.

Implicit preference

The first confirmatory hypothesis tested whether participants implicit preference for *real* Chinese characters (i.e., those selected) was greater than chance (i.e., 6 or 50%). A one-sample t test comparing number of real characters preferred to chance showed that participants selected significantly fewer real Chinese characters than would be expected by chance (respective means: 5.66 vs. 6.0), $t(153) = -2.626$, $p = 0.010$, 95% CI (-0.60, -0.09), $d = 0.21$.

Table 1

Mean and SD for the implicit preference task and explicit identification task.

Task	Mean	SD
Implicit Preference	5.66	1.626
Explicit Identification	5.77	1.871

Explicit identification

The second confirmatory hypothesis tested whether participants explicit identification of *real* Chinese characters (i.e., those selected) was greater than chance (i.e., 6 or 50%). A one-sample t test comparing number of real characters identified to chance showed no difference, (respective means: 5.77 vs. 6.0), $t(153) = -1.551, p = 0.123, 95\% \text{ CI } (-0.53, 0.06), d = 0.12$.

Comparison between implicit and explicit performance

Exploratory analysis of the difference in performance between the implicit preference task and the explicit identification task show no significant effect ($p=1.0$).

Correlations between performance and AEI

Analysis of exploratory hypotheses 2 examined the correlations between both implicit and explicit performance and participants reported levels of belief in paranormal using the AEI. These showed no significant effects (all $ps > 0.1$) and are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2

Correlations between implicit and explicit performance and the three sub-scales of the AEI

	Implicit Preference		Explicit Identification	
	r	p	r	p
Belief	.110	.174	-.131	.105
Experience	-.092	.254	-.082	.310
Ability	-.083	.306	.071	.383

Analysis of exploratory hypotheses 3 examined the correlations between participant's age, gender and their level of motivation with their reported levels of belief in paranormal using the AEI. These results are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3

Correlations between participant age, gender and level of motivation and the three sub-scales of the AEI

	Age		Gender		Motivation	
	r	p	r	p	r	p
Belief	.237	.003**	-.020	.801	.205	.011*
Experience	.230	.004**	-.084	.301	.220	.006**
Ability	.304	.000**	.044	.585	.235	.003**

(**p<0.01, *p<0.05)

Discussion

The data shows that participants implicitly preferred real Chinese characters *less than* would be expected by chance. There were also significant positive correlations between age and belief as well as motivation and belief. However, there was no difference in participants ability to explicitly identify real Chinese characters and no difference in the magnitude of any effect between implicit and explicit performance. There was also no clear association between implicit and explicit performance and participants reported levels of belief in the paranormal using the AEI.

References