INSTITUTE OF NOETIC SCIENCES
Research Protocol
Version 1

**Protocol Title:** Hypnotizing Unconditional Love and Precognition

**Type of Experiment:** Exploratory

**Investigators**

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**Abstract**

**Objectives:** The objective of the study is to examine whether hypnotic trance influences either the experience and expression of unconditional love, precognition, or both.

**Design:** Double-blind (data analyst blind to condition), mixed design (2 group x 2 conditions).

**Locations:** In the office in which Adam Crabtree does hypnosis. Portions online.

**Participants:** 40 participants. *Note that this registry is being submitted prior to testing the first participant. Also note that we plan to run a trial participant prior to the experiment. The data from this trial participant will not be recorded – the purpose will be to acclimate the co-Investigator with the procedure.*

**Methods:** Participants will be assigned to one of two groups, with each participant assigned to the group opposite from the one to which the previous participant was assigned. The only difference between the groups will be the order in which the hypnotic suggestions are to be made: either unconditional love followed by precognition, or vice versa. Participants will perform a task set prior to and during an induced trance.

**Background and Introduction**

*Unconditional love* (which we concisely define as “perceiving and acting toward each being’s highest good”) and *precognition* (which we concisely define as “gaining accurate conscious or nonconscious information about future events through means outside the 5 senses”) are both skills that are generally desirable yet difficult to acquire (for review, see: Baruss & Mossbridge, 2016). Meanwhile, trance states such as those induced by hypnosis can be used to help people acquire experiences and behaviors that are otherwise difficult to achieve (for review, see: Crabtree, 1993). We aim to raise awareness and understand both unconditional love and super-normal abilities. Thus we are proposing this experiment, which we believe to be groundbreaking and the first of its kind.

**Hypothesis and Predictions**

Our hypothesis has two parts: 1) a hypnotic suggestion can induce at least a temporary state of unconditional love, and 2) all super-normal abilities are enhanced when a person experiences unconditional love. This hypothesis has many predictions, but in the proposed experiment we will test three of them.
Prediction 1: We predict that a hypnotic suggestion to feel unconditional love will significantly increase the extent to which individuals experience unconditional love (as reported on a self-report questionnaire) and also implicitly practice unconditional love (as measured by an implicit unconditional love task).

Prediction 2: We predict that a hypnotic suggestion to feel unconditional love will produce a significant improvement in both implicit and explicit precognition, above baseline performance.

Prediction 3: Finally, we predict that this improvement in precognition performance will be over and above that of any performance improvement on precognition following a hypnotic suggestion of better precognition performance.

Study Overview:
We plan to use a double-blind placebo-controlled crossover design. The “placebo” in this case is the hypnotic suggestion for improved precognition. Therefore, two groups of participants will move through the experiment, with slightly different experiences of the order of events. Group A will first perform the set of tasks (described below), then be hypnotized to experience unconditional love, then perform the set of tasks again. On another day, these participants will return, perform the set of tasks again, get hypnotized to perform better on the precognitive tasks, then perform the set of tasks again. Group B will do the same except they will first be hypnotized to perform better on precognition, and second to experience unconditional love. While the Co-I and the participants will know what the hypnotic suggestion is, they will not be able to control the results of the precognition task or the implicit unconditional love task. The Co-I will perform the 40-minute hypnosis sessions in his office, as well as instruct the participants in how to perform the set of tasks both before and during the trance state. The PI will first analyze the data from the online test without knowing to which group or timepoint the data belong, so the PI will be blind as well.

Set of Tasks
The set of tasks will consist of two precognition tasks, an implicit unconditional love task, and a brief questionnaire about love, all administered either online or via a smartphone app. Details about the set of tasks are below. The entire set of tasks will take at most 15 minutes to complete.

Precognition Tasks
We will assess implicit explicit precognition with Hidden Masters game in the Sense-I iPhone app and a very brief remote-viewing task. The Sense-I iPhone app was designed by Dean Radin and created by the Consciousness Hacking-IONS Hackation participants (funded by the Hummingbird Fund). Implicit and explicit precognition differ in that implicit precognition is examined by analyzing data from experiments that don't seem to the participant to have anything to do with precognition, and don't require the participant to make conscious guesses about the future. Explicit precognition is assessed by asking the participant to make conscious guesses about future events. It is not clear which kind
of precognition would benefit from either of the two types of hypnotic suggestions, so we will test both.

In the Hidden Masters game, participants have 15 trials to try to predict the future location of an animated Zen “master,” who appears on the screen once the user makes their prediction. The entire game takes about 3 minutes to perform. The total average score across all 15 trials will be our measure of explicit precognition. As our measure of implicit precognition, we will use the raw data from the app to calculate the average proportion of correct trials if the top half and the bottom half of the screen are considered to be the only two possible predictions. Because different tones are used when the Master appears on the top versus the bottom of the screen, this measure tests for implicit precognition of the tones.

In the brief remote-viewing task, we will assess explicit precognition using a free-response protocol in which participants have 2 minutes to draw their impressions of an image that the hypnotist will show to them after they have handed their drawing to the hypnotist. The hypnotist will obtain this target image after the drawing is received by using TargetMonkey.com, a source of random images for remote viewing. Judging will be performed by judges blinded to the target image, once all data have been obtained in the experiment. This entire remote-viewing process will take about 5 minutes to complete.

Implicit Unconditional Love Task
The Sense-I iPhone app also contains a game in which participants are encouraged to have deep compassion for a baby dragon, who is hungry. We will assess the participants’ ability to feed the baby dragon, which is accomplished through having compassion for it, through changing a random number generator in the right direction. Although this is not a direct test for unconditional love, it is a strong test for it. The entire game allows 90 seconds to attempt to feed the baby as many times as the participant desires. Scores are based on the proportion of attempts that were successful.

Love Questionnaire
As a direct, explicit measure of unconditional love, we will use the Fetzer love scale. In addition to the questions on that scale, we will add four of our own. After offering Adam Crabtree's definition of Evolutionary (Unconditional) Love, we will ask, "Given the definition you just read, to what extent do you feel unconditional love toward yourself?" "Toward other humans?" "Toward animals?" and "Toward the computer on which you are completing this survey?" This questionnaire will take about 3 minutes to complete.

Participants:
Participants will be 40 people from the ages of 18 to 90 who are willing to volunteer to be hypnotized twice. We will attempt to choose participants who have no major physical or mental illnesses, and who speak English as their native language. While the hypnotist (Adam Crabtree) will manage the participants, perform hypnosis, and keep group information (see Procedure), the PI (Julia Mossbridge) will keep administrative track of
all demographics and data. Participants will be recruited through IONS community groups and craigslist.

**Statistical Analysis:**
The PI will analyze the data using standard statistical methods (parametric where possible and two-tailed tests in all cases), and will only ask for information from the Co-I about group identity until all data are analyzed.

**References**