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This experiment formed the University of Edinburgh MSc Dissertation project conducted in 2024 by Thea Booysen and supervised by Prof Caroline Watt. This summary of results is mostly extracted from Thea Booysen's MSc Dissertation.

# Testing the precognition hypothesis using the ganzfeld method with participants selected for previous positive performance on the same task

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## Abstract

This is an exploratory follow-up study based on a ganzfeld Extrasensory Perception (ESP) study by Watt (2023). The participants who obtained a "hit" in the previous study were invited back to the lab, to participate in the same automated precognition task. Targets and decoys consisted of short video clips randomly selected with replacement from a pool of 200. This study tested the theory that psi phenomena, if genuine, may not be uniformly distributed across the population, but rather more pronounced in "star subjects" (Bem & Honorton, 1994).

We predicted that the overall significant scoring on the ganzfeld precognition task would be higher than chance expectation (25%), as well as that of the previous study. This study also tested the assumption that the ganzfeld method elicits a psi-conducive altered state of consciousness, by correlating Glicksohn's Altered State of Consciousness (ASC) time estimation method with precognition task performance. We predicted that higher target similarity ratings would be associated with greater evidence of ASC during the session. 32 participants contributed 58 trials (26 participants were tested twice). Fifteen hits were obtained (25.9% hit-rate), not supporting the ganzfeld precognition hypotheses. No significant relation was found between time estimation and psi task performance. We conclude by discussing the implications of these results and the need for further investigation into factors that might influence ganzfeld ESP performance.

*Keywords:* Ganzfeld, precognition, altered states of consciousness, time estimation, star subject