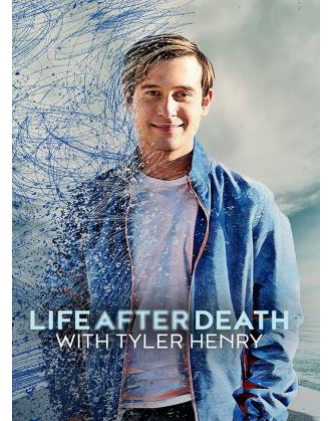


Unit 4- Sensation & Perception

Extrasensory Perception? ESP

What are the claims of ESP, and what have most research Psychologists concluded after putting these claims to the test?
(p.166-169)



What is Paranormal Psychology?

The study of the evidence for psychological phenomena, such as telepathy, clairvoyance, and psycho-kinesis, that are inexplicable by science.

In today's world many people believe that ESP is real...even without any proof or scientific way of proving it. Do people like the **Long Island Medium**, **James Van Praagh**, **Chip Coffey**, and **Tyler Henry** actually have ESP and 'talk to dead people'? The Psychic hotlines of North America is a \$1 Billion a year industry! But *why??* And can these be tested scientifically? (*Social Psychology may help explain this later on...*)

Let's review two concepts of scientific thinking from Unit 2 to help us:

- 1) **Correlation** does not mean causation. Just because events occur together does not mean that they cause each other.
- 2) **Confirmation Bias** occurs when we only look for evidence that supports our beliefs and ignore evidence that refutes them. Many people believe in parapsychology because they rely only on the evidence that supports their beliefs.

Claims of ESP: (p.166-169)

1. **Telepathy**- one person sending thoughts to another person or perceiving another's thoughts
 2. **Clairvoyance**- perceiving remote events such as sensing that a friend's house is on fire.
 3. **Precognition** – perceiving future events
- Other claims of **PSYCHOKINESIS (PK)** – mind over matter such as levitating tables, or influencing the role of the dice, etc.

Now that we have studied Sensation and Perception, **do you think paranormal phenomena is a worthy scientific subject to study? Why or why not? How can we prove these claims?**
(Think back to the Scientific Method)

