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**Evidence of Accuracy and Specificity for Long-Distance Mediumship:  
The “Double-Deceased” Multi-Medium Paradigm<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup>The first experiment described here is based upon data obtained by Schwartz and Chopra [link]. The second experiment described here is based upon data obtained by Schwartz and Grenard.

## Abstract

Recent research suggests that certain mediums can obtain accurate and specific information about deceased persons long-distance via phone and the internet. The present report replicates and extends long-distance mediumship research using a novel “double-deceased” paradigm. In the first experiment, three evidence-based mediums (located in Arizona, California, and New York) were asked to attempt to contact one deceased person, Susy Smith (SS), with whom they had previously been successful in obtaining specific and accurate information. The procedure involved the first author, in his thoughts, requesting that the deceased SS bring the loved ones of the second author (DC) to the three mediums for a reading. The three mediums conducted these readings in the privacy of their homes and later read the information to GS over the phone. The mediums were not told the identity of the deceased loved ones or the identity of the sitter. The tapes were transcribed. The items were scored using a -3 to +3 scale by the “sitter” (DC) as well as the control (GS). The average +3 percent accuracy ratings of the three readings for the sitter (DC) was 73% compared to 30% for the control (GS) ( $p < .0002$ ). The double-deceased paradigm was replicated and extended in a second experiment involving the deceased son of the third author and three mediums (located in Arizona, Missouri, New York). The average +3 percent accuracy ratings of the three readings for the sitter (SG) was 67% compared to 23% for the control (GS) ( $p < .004$ ). Careful analysis of the content revealed that the totality of the findings could not be explained as rater bias. The double-deceased paradigm generates findings which question the plausibility of purported super-psi explanations. Long-distance multi-center, double-blind experiments can be conducted using the double-deceased paradigm.

## Introduction

In recent years, a small group of scientists have examined the possible validity of carefully selected mediums obtaining accurate and specific information via anomalous / paranormal mechanisms. Schwartz and colleagues at the University of Arizona have conducted a series of single-blind experiments with well-known mediums, including John Edward, the host and medium of the daily television program *Crossing Over* (Edward, 2001) and George Anderson, the medium featured in *Contact* (Anderson, 2000). Edward and Anderson, along with Suzanne Northrop (Northrop, 2002), Anne Gehman, and Laurie Campbell, were studied by Schwartz and colleagues (Schwartz et al, 2001); the procedures and basic findings were shown on the documentary *Life Afterlife* (HBO, 1999).

These preliminary experiments were reviewed in Schwartz (2002). Recent experiments included multi-sitter / multi-medium paradigms; the latest experiments were conducted double-blind and long-distance over the telephone (e.g. Schwartz et al, 2002 in preparation). Even under conditions where the sitters could not be seen by the mediums, and also did not speak (*i.e.* the sitters provided no visual or auditory cues), accurate and specific information was obtained by this select group of mediums. Findings reported in England (Robertson and Roy; 2001; and Roy and Robertson, 2001) independently replicated and extended these findings and falsified the generalization hypothesis with odds against chance of  $5.37 \times 10^{-11}$ .

It is possible, in principle, to conduct long-distance mediumship experiments not only by telephone but also using the internet. A demonstration internet-chat room mediumship experiment was conducted by Grenard and Schwartz (2002, in preparation).

Ten mediums in various locations across the United States, over more than twenty sessions, provided long-distance internet chat-room readings with one sitter (SG) primarily concerning one deceased person (KGN). In addition, face-to-face (or telephone) readings with three “trance” mediums (one located in England) provided confirmatory evidence.

GS reviewed SG’s scoring to determine if rater bias was a plausible explanation for the totality of the findings. The level of specificity and detail for a substantial subset of the items ruled out concluding that the findings could be explained entirely in terms of general statements that would be rated positively by raters.

The present paper reports the results of two experiments using a novel “double-deceased” paradigm that can readily be conducted long-distance. The first experiment used the telephone. The second experiment used the internet. The internet has advantages because it can rapidly provide information to the experimenters, and subsequently, to the sitters. The structure of the double-deceased paradigm questions the plausibility of purported super-psi mechanisms as an explanation of the findings.

The double-deceased paradigm was co-discovered by GS and Janet Mayer, a research medium in Saint Louis, Missouri, in the fall of 2001.. She participated in Experiment 2 described in this paper.

The double-deceased (DD) paradigm can be outlined as follows:

1. Research sitters are chosen who are willing to perform item-by-item scoring of long distance readings obtained via telephone or the internet. The research sitters are kept blind to the actual times that the DD readings are conducted (see below).

2. The experimenter is kept blind to details about the deceased loved ones of the sitters as well as the times that the DD actual readings are conducted (see below).
3. The experimenter attempts to contact, in his mind, one deceased person (a “departed hypothesized co-investigator” – DHCI) and requests the DHCI to bring the sitter’s deceased loved ones to research mediums who have previously read the DHCI successfully (i.e. it has been previously documented that the research mediums can obtain accurate information about the DHCI).
4. The research mediums, at times selected by them (and known only by them), in the privacy of their homes, attempt to (a) contact the DHCI, and then (b) conduct a reading of the deceased individual (s) purportedly introduced to them by the DHCI. The mediums are kept blind to the identity of the sitters and their locations.
5. The research mediums either phone their readings to the experimenter (which are subsequently transcribed and scored by the sitter and experimenter), or email their readings to the experimenter, who forwards the item-by-item information of the readings to the sitters.

The DD paradigm makes a number of core assumptions that are open to question:

1. That DHCI’s exist.
2. That DHCI’s agree to perform their role as co-investigators in the experiment.
3. That DHCI’s can detect the thoughts of experimenters.

4. That DHCI's can "locate and bring" the sitters' deceased loved ones to the designated research mediums
5. That the research mediums can contact the DHCIs and then read the deceased persons purportedly introduced by the DHCIs.

The present paper presents the findings from two experiments that illustrate the potential utility and significance of the double-deceased paradigm for testing the survival of consciousness hypothesis.

## **Experiment 1**

### **Method**

#### **The Research Sitter**

DC is a 55 year old physician who has published more than twenty books, lectures widely to the public as well as to physicians at major universities, and appears regularly in the media. The Chopra Foundation was created in part to help fund research linking science, spirituality, and healing. Research expenses for the present experiment (travel, lodging, phone calls, video tapes, transcriptions) were partially funded by the Chopra Foundation.

The age and sex matched control rater was GS.

#### **Departed Hypothesized Co-Investigator (DHCI)**

The DHCI was the late Susy Smith, author of thirty books in parapsychology and survival of consciousness after death (reviewed in Smith, 2000). Evidence consistent

with Ms. Smith serving as a DHCI has been reported in previous experiments (Schwartz et al, 1999; Schwartz and Russek, 2001; Schwartz, Russek, and Geoffrion, 2001; Schwartz and Chopra, 2002; Schwartz et al, 2002).

### **The Research Mediums**

Laurie Campbell (LC) in Irvine, California, is the mother of two children. She has participated in five years of evidence-based medium (EBM) research (reviewed in Schwartz, 2002).

Allison Dubois (AB) in Phoenix, Arizona, is the mother of three children. She has participated in two years of EBM research (e.g. Schwartz and Russek, 2001; Grenard and Schwartz, 2002).

Mary Occhino (MO) in Shirley, New York, is the mother of two children. She has participated in one year of EBM research (e.g. Grenard and Schwartz, 2002). All have had previous research experience with long-distance, sitter-silent, single and double-blind experiments.

### **Experimenter**

The experimenter was GS. He was in Arizona at the time he made the requests to the DHCI. He was in California during the scoring of the experiment.

## **Procedures – Double Deceased, Speaking Out Loud, and Regular Reading**

### **Conditions**

The experimenter (GS) scheduled three long distance telephone research readings, one per hour, beginning at 8:00 am Pacific Standard Time (PST). The timing of the research readings required the coordination of DC's schedule (being present in La Costa, California, and having a four-hour block of time), GS's schedule (being able to fly from Tucson, Arizona, to La Costa, California, to run the experiment), and the EBM's schedules. A date was found in August, 2002 that fit everyone's schedule. MO did the first reading (8:00 am PST, which for MO was 11:00 am Eastern Standard Time), LC did the second reading (at 9:00 am PST, her time), and AD did the third reading (at 10:00 am PST, her time).

Each EBM was told that there would be other EBMs involved in this experiment; however, they were not told who the other EBMs were. Each EBM was told that the sitter was a "high profile" person; and that this particular reading was important. However, they were blind to the identity and location of the sitter.

Each EBM was asked to attempt to get information regarding the sitter's deceased loved one's before the reading began (the "double deceased" condition; "pre-reading" information was first tested in Schwartz and Russek, 2001).

Each EBM was told that the phone call would begin with the experimenter (GS) reviewing the procedures. They were asked to read whatever DD pre-read information was received, and then to conduct an on-line (live) sitter-silent reading. This was termed "speaking outloud." The EBMs were reminded that they would not be allowed to ask

questions, and that the experimenter would be silent during the reading. The EBMs were reminded that the experiment knew very little about the sitter's family history.

Note: the sitter decided that he wanted to spend the last fifteen minutes of each reading speaking with the EBMs personally (similar to a "normal" reading). This information, though meaningful and at times highly evidentiary, was not part of the experimental design and was not included for data analysis. As in all professional readings, EBMs keep the identities of their sitters confidential unless instructed otherwise.

The readings were recorded with two Sony digital video cameras (one using Mini DV tapes, the other using High 8mm tapes) plus a high quality Sony micro-cassette audiotape machine. Transcripts were made from the audiotapes for scoring.

### **Scoring**

The experimenter returned to La Costa, California a few weeks later for a four-hour transcript scoring session. The session was recorded with a Sony digital video camera. Each item of information about the past or present from the pre-read and sitter-silent phases – including initials, names, causes of death, historical facts, descriptions of personal appearance and personality – was scored using a seven point scale: -3, definite miss, -2 probable miss, -1 probable miss, 0 maybe, +1 possible hit, +2 probable hit, +3 definite hit. Items about the future could not be scored. Both the sitter and the experimenter scored each item of information concerning how it applied to them and their personal family histories.

## Results

MO, LC and AD produced a total of 85, 131, and 89 items of information respectively (average 101.6). MO, LC, and AD produced 40, 59, and 43 items during the DD condition (average 47.3) and 45, 72, and 46 items during the SO condition (average 54.3).

Below are representative paragraphs, word for word, from the three readings concerning the sitter's deceased father. Each item is shown as [I].

MO: "Um, and they're making me also, this gentleman's crossed over, um, the father figure [I], he may have passed from a heart attack [I], because he's making me feel his passing was very quick, sudden, and boom [I]. And he's telling me he's really good looking [I]. He is, and I don't feel like he was very conceited in life, but he's just being factual [I]. Is that what he's trying to say – he's making me see he's got either brown or dark hair [I], blue eyes [I], and he's showing me themselves in the prime of their lives. He says he's good looking, his whole family, he says, is good looking [I]. And they acknowledge the Hamptons [I]. Either the family just came from the Hamptons [I], or there's some kind of photo of the family on a beach on Long Island [I], but all of a sudden he brought me to Long Island...."

LC: "When I see what I feel is like is the father, I keep seeing the person, like, sitting in a chair and I see a lot of movement but I see him kind of self-involved in something with reading and stuff like that [I]. Um, I keep having the feeling that this person doesn't live exactly where they were raised, that this person went more toward the city than the country [I]. Um, that, um, something that has to do with education as well. I just keep getting the feeling of education [I] or being – I don't know if they mean more

educated than the family they come from but I feel like this person kind of broke away from tradition and, um, has gone their own way in life to, um, create a life that is kind of different from what the person hails from with the family, or the belief systems or different [I].”

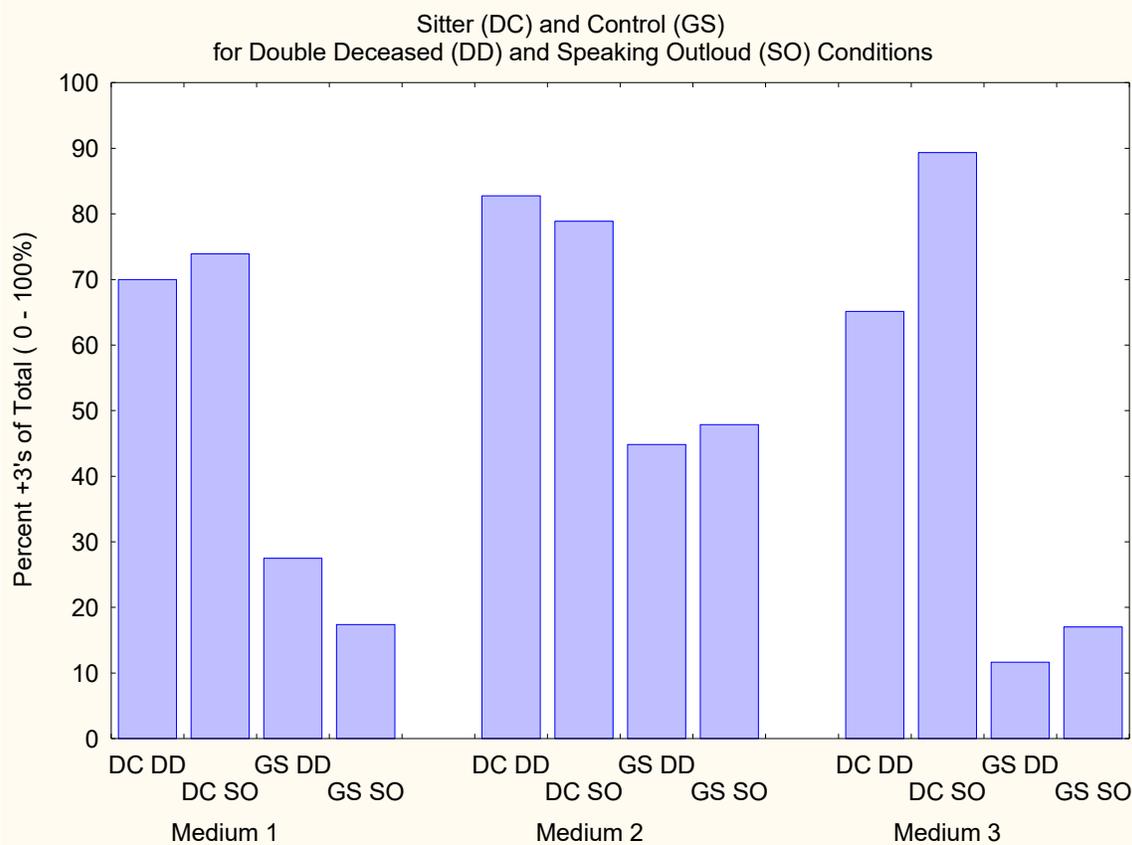
AD: “Was showing me a man of stature who has passed [I], no longer living. Um, and this person being tied to the sitter [I]. Um, there was a Richard connection [I] this man that has passed, um, let’s see. She was displaying beautiful women around him [I], um, he was beyond, um, I mean the feeling of this man’s stature was so great that was hard to fathom. He knew politicians as well as people [I], um that are well-known. Um, there was a connection to the oil and steel industry, when, um America was being industrialized [I]. Um, and he talked about a boy and girl below him that he loved [I], and that they had a small [I], um, dark dog [I], looks like it’s a terrier, I’m not great with dogs, but I think it was a terrier. Um, and said there was a cremation [I] controversy [I] around him....”

Figure 1 (next page) displays the percentages of +3 (definite hit) scores per EBM (compared to the total number of items of information each obtained) separately for the sitter (DC) and the experimenter (GS), for the pre-read double-deceased (DD) and sitter silent speaking outloud (SO) portions of the readings.

It can be seen that the percent + 3 scores for the sitter were high, averaging 77.3% percent across DD and SO conditions, whereas the percent +3 scores for the experimenter / control were relatively low, averaging 26.7%. An analysis of variance was performed with sitter (DC versus GS) as one factor and condition (DD versus SO) as control. The main effect for sitter was statistically significant ( $F(1,8) = 39.1522$   $p < .0002$ ). The percent

+3's for the sitter for the DD and SO conditions were 72.6% and 80.7% respectively. In contrast, the percent +3's for the experimenter / control for the DD and SO conditions were 28.0% and 27.4% respectively.

**Figure 1**



It can be seen that each of the three mediums had higher percent +3 scores for DD and SO conditions comparing sitter versus experimenter / control ratings.

Interestingly, the percent +3 scores for the experimenter / control rating in this experiment replicate a previous experiment where three experimenters (serving as controls) rated fifteen sitters readings (Schwartz et al, 2002a). Their average percent +3

scores averaged 25%. Also, when five research sitters rated control readings (i.e. readings other than their own), their percent +3 scores averaged 25%.

### **Rater Bias as a Possible Explanation**

Can the differences in percent + 3 scores between the sitter and experimenter be explained as potential rater bias of the sitter and / or the experimenter / control in the present experiment? A review of the content of the three sample paragraphs for the deceased father (the primary deceased person for the sitter) is summarized, item by item, in Table 1. For clarity, the data are displayed as “yes’s” (+3’s) or “no’s” (all other ratings).

**Table 1**

<b>Item of Information</b>	<b>Sitter Explanation</b>	<b>Experimenter Explanation</b>
Crossed over father figure	Yes	Yes
Passed from heart attack	Yes	No (stroke, IV food stopped)
Quick, sudden, boom	Yes	No (months in hospital)
Really good looking	Yes	No (homely looking)
Not conceited, factual	Yes	No (poor self-confidence)
Brown or dark hair	Yes (black)	Yes (brown)
Blue eyes	No (brown)	No (brown)
Hamptons	Yes	No (family to Fire Island)
Photo of family on beach	Yes	No (have no beach photos)
Sitting, reading	Yes	No (father rarely home)
Moved toward city	Yes	No (moved to small town)
Feeling of Education	Yes (MD)	Yes (ABD, then pharmacy)
Broke away from family tradition	Yes	No (took his father’s job)
Man of stature	Yes	No (ran a small-town store)
Richard connection	Yes	No (father had few friends)
Beautiful women around him	Yes	No (not in high society)
Knew politicians and people	Yes	No ( “ )
Oil and steel industry	No	No
Boy and girl below him he loved	Yes	No (two boys)
Small dog	No	No (no pets)

Dark dog	No	No ( “ ” )
Cremation	Yes	Yes
Controversy	No	No

For these three representative paragraphs concerning the deceased father, there was a total of 23 items. The percent yes's for the sitter is 78.3% compared to 17.4% for the experimenter / control.

The specificity and accuracy of the information is straight forward, even concerning appearances. The sitter's father was a handsome man who came from an attractive family; the experimenter's father was not a handsome man (e.g. he had a nose like Jimmy Durante) and he did not come from an attractive family. If naïve judges were shown pictures of the two fathers and two sets of families, and were asked to rate them on physical attractiveness, the ratings would be match the scores of the sitter and experimenter. Living friends and relatives of the sitter can independently establish the high percent +3 scores.

Both the sitter and the experimenter / control in Experiment 1 have extensive experience in science. The speculation that the findings in this experiment must be “prima facie” evidence of fraud or rater bias is not consistent with the evidence.

For example, the sitter and experimenter / control were careful to rate general or common information with +3's when appropriate. All three mediums mentioned that the name John was important to the sitter; one mentioned the name Jackie in the context of John. The sitter was a close friend of Jackie Kennedy. However, John is a common name. Moreover, the experimenter / control has conducted multiple-experiments with John Edward of *Crossing Over*. Hence, the name John received a +3 from both the sitter and experimenter / control. However, the experimenter / control does not (and did not)

have a close association with anyone named Jackie.

Similarly, two mediums mentioned that the name David was important to the sitter, and the third mentioned the name Simon. David Simon, MD, is a long-standing collaborator and friend of the sitter. The names David and Simon were both rated as +3's by the sitter. Whereas David is a common name, Simon is not. However, the experimenter / control knows a number of Davids, and his writing partner is named William Simon. Hence, these names fit the experimenter / control as well, and were given +3's in the final scoring.

Because the experimenter / control is trained as a health-care provider (clinical psychology) and is a writer and lecturer, his professional responsibilities overlap with those of the sitter (an MD who is a writer and lecturer). At one point LC said "And being on a stage, which is weird. It's like the chalkboard thing, or somebody writing, or teaching people, or helping people. It's so weird, because I keep getting, like, life's a stage like – like we're all on a stage but we're all just doing different things, different people crossing a stage with a podium on it." In the hundred's of readings that the experimenter has witnessed LC conduct, she has never talked about "being on a stage....like the chalkboard thing." Because the sitter and experimenter / control both teach, both gave +3 ratings to this pattern of information." Because LC reported numerous items about the sitter's professional activities that overlapped with the experimenter's professional activities, the percent +3's for LC for the experimenter / control was higher (45%) than the average (26.7%). However, if a random group of research sitters had scored this reading as controls, it is probable that the average of percent +3's would have decreased to approximately 25%.

Items of information not related to profession often distinguished between the sitter and experimenter / control. For example, LC obtained information about a “Victorian” type house, two stories, with many rooms. The sitter was raised in a house that looked like this; the experimenter / control was not. AD described a mother who “liked to make and serve tea” and “made reference to there being some sort of an England connection to her.” The sitter’s mother liked to make and serve tea, and there was a England connection; this information did not apply to the experimenter / control’s mother.

Certain items of information were surprising for their specificity and novelty. MO reported about “a male who’s passed from throat cancer. A man who’s actually holding his throat, is making me feel he has not – has had no more vocal chords, or they removed his vocal chords before his passing.”

In the hundreds of readings the experimenter has witnessed, throat cancer has been mentioned a few times. However, prior to this experiment, he had never heard the claim from an EBM that someone’s vocal chords had been removed before their passing. It is not common knowledge that the sitter had an uncle who he was close to who had throat cancer and had his vocal chords removed before he died. It is important to note that the experimenter has not personally known anyone, living or deceased, whose vocal chords were removed.

There was substantial information, both specific and accurate, that was reported by the three EBMs that was highly personal and confidential. Though not appropriate to reveal in a scientific report, for the sake of completeness it should be noted that such information was obtained during the research readings. It is possible to mention that MO

said, “I’m getting a father figure acknowledging a woman who survived cancer. There’s some who’s still here who has survived either lung or breast cancer, because they’re making me see her chest.” MO was incorrect in her interpretation of lung or breast cancer, but she was correct in her observation that a woman still living had survived something in her chest. The sitter’s mother had survived life threatening asthma.

However, at the time this paper was being written, the sitter’s mother was gravely ill, in a wheel chair with severe arthritis and other problems (reported by MO). The experimenter’s mother has been deceased for more than fifteen years; she did not have any illnesses to her chest region.

## **Experiment 2**

### **Method**

#### **Research Sitter**

The research “sitter” in Experiment 2 was SG. He is Director of Research for the Sleep Laboratory at the Staten Island University Hospital.

The age and sex matched control rater was again GS.

#### **Departed Hypothesized Co-Investigator (DHCI)**

The DHCI was again the late Susy Smith.

#### **Primary Deceased Persons**

The primary deceased person purportedly brought to the mediums by the DHCI for the sitter (SG) was his son KNG who died in 2001 at age 33. The DHCI was not requested to bring a deceased person for the control rater (GS).

### **Experimenter**

The experimenter was again GS. He was in New York at the time he made the requests to the DHCI. He was in Arizona during the scoring of the experiment.

### **Research Mediums**

Janet Mayer (JM), from Saint Louis, Missouri. She co-discovered the double-deceased paradigm with GS in the process of conducting over 300 long-distance readings with the DHCI from April, 2001 to October, 2002, the month this paper was written.

The other two EBM's were Mary Occhino (MO) and Allison DuBois (AD). They previously participated in Experiment 1.

### **Experimental Design**

The design was a multi-medium, single-sitter experiment. GS requested that the DHCI bring the deceased KNG to the three EBMs while GS was in New York. Their readings were emailed to GS. The emails were forwarded to SG by GS for scoring when GS returned to Arizona.

## Scoring

Each initial, name, historical fact, appearance description, temperament description, personal opinion, and so forth, was scored using the following 7 point scale: -3, definite miss; -2 probable miss; -1 possible miss; 0 maybe no, maybe yes; +1 possible hit; +2 probable hit; +3 definite hit.

SG and GS scored the three emailed readings.

## Results

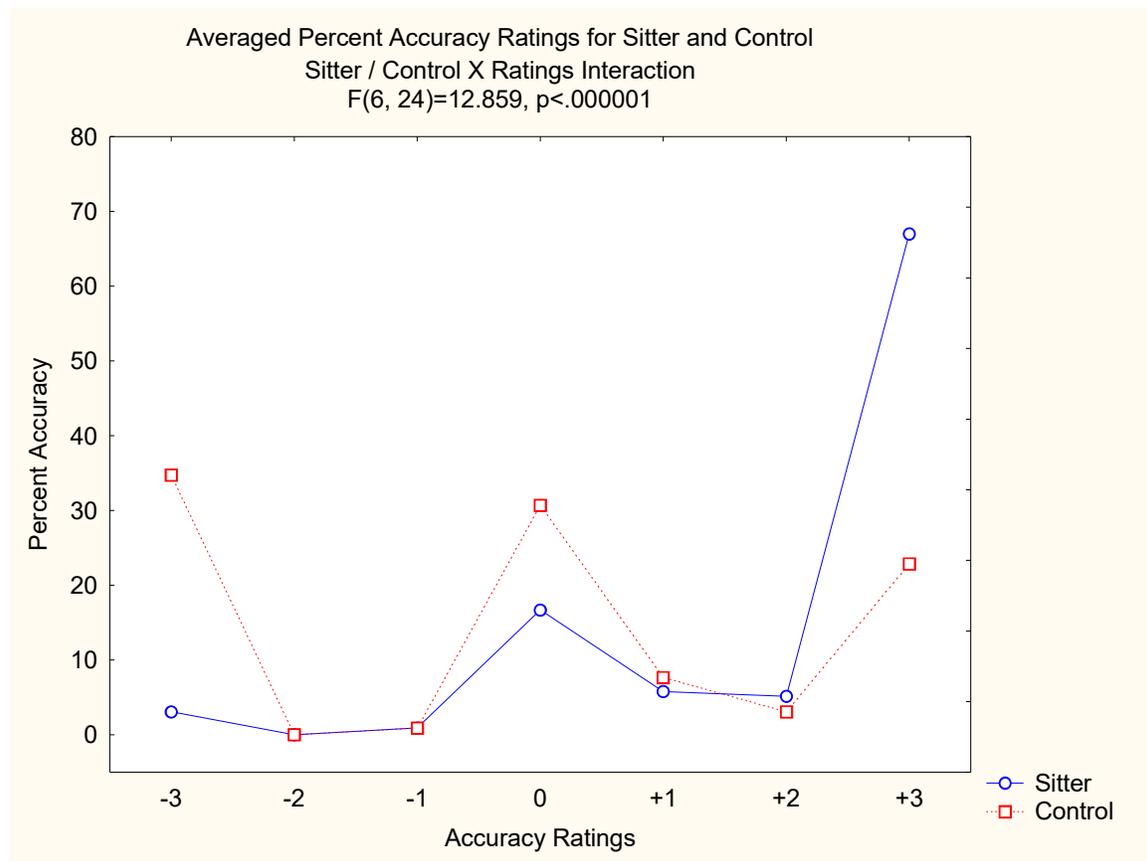
Unlike Experiment 1 which had two conditions (DD and SO), Experiment 2 had only one condition (DD). We decided to present the scored data in more detail to reveal the replication of Experiment 1 and extension in Experiment 2.

JM, MO, and AD produced a total of 62, 20, and 35 items of information respectively (average 42.3).

Figure 2 (next page) displays the percent scores separately for all seven ratings, averaged across the three EBMs, separately for SG (the sitter) and GS (the control).

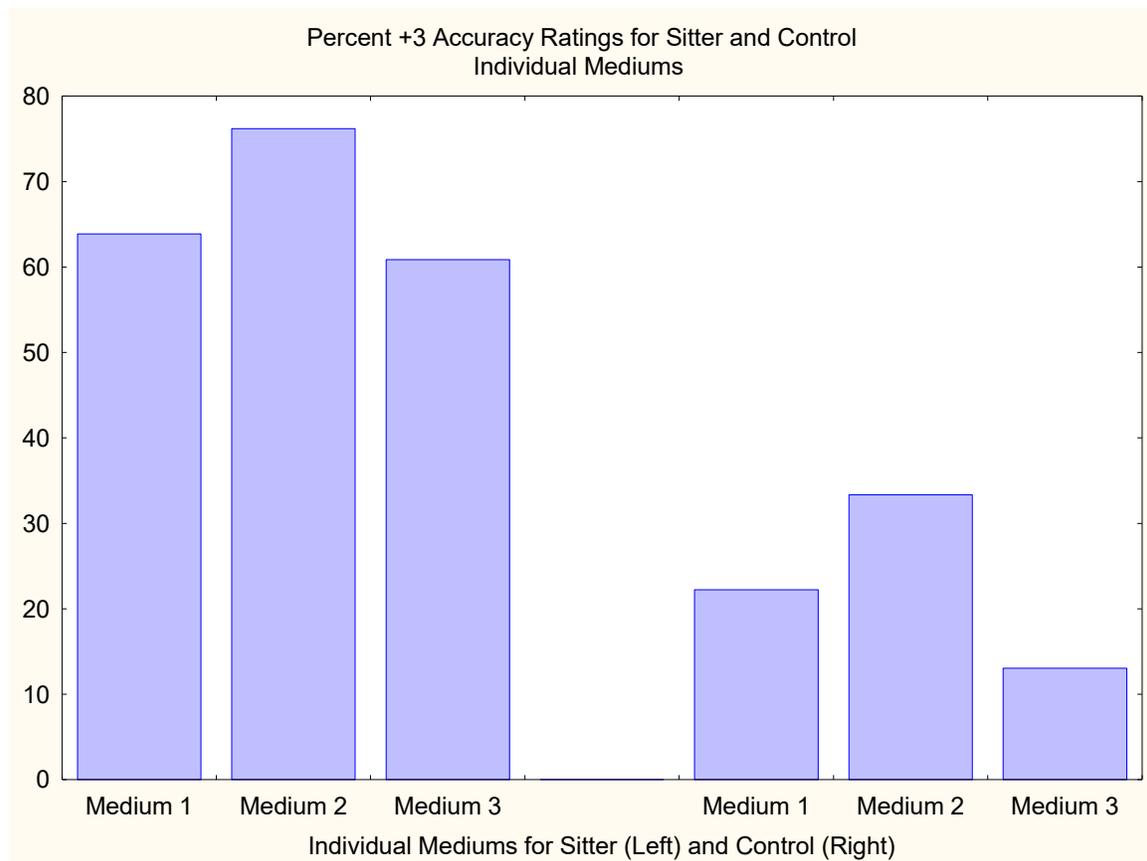
It can be seen that the average +3 percent score for SG (the far right point from the solid blue sitter line) was 67% compared to 23% for GS (the far right point from dashed red control line). Conversely, the average -3 percent score for SG was 3% compared to 35% for GS.

A 2 X 7 analysis of variance with sitter versus control (2) as a between subject factor and percent scores (7) as a within subject (repeated measure) yielded a highly significant sitter versus control by percent scores interaction ( $F(6, 24)=12.859$ ,  $p<.000001$ ).

**Figure 2**

The reason for the high p value is that each of the three EBMs yielded similar effects comparing sitter versus control across the seven ratings..

Figure 3 (next page) displays bar graphs for the individual EBMs for the +3 percent accuracy ratings. An one way analysis of variance is significant ( $F(1, 4)=34.537, p<.004$ ).

**Figure 3**

Additional analyses were performed to examine possibility that the results were due to ratings of general versus specific items.

GS coded the items 0 if general, and 1 if specific.

Examples of general items generated by the EBM's included:

- Male child (vague)
- Nurse (no reference)
- Railroad connection (vague)

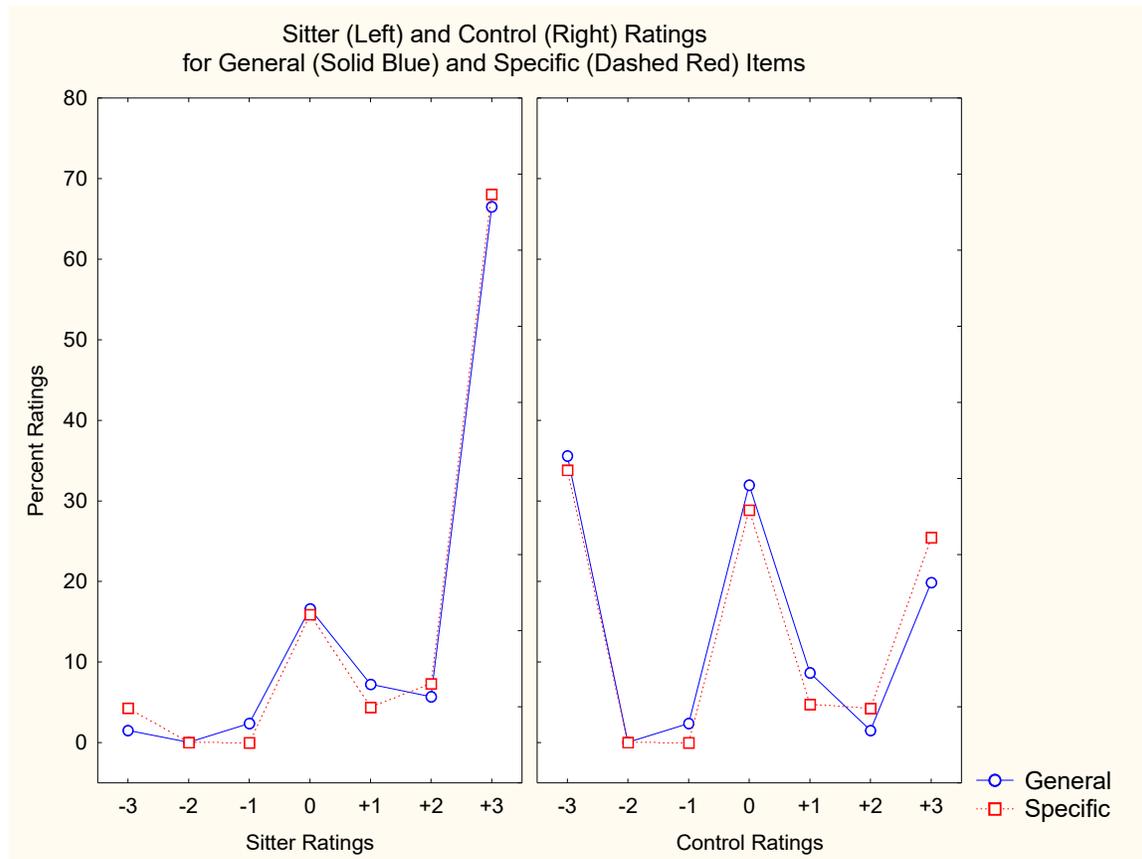
- Older male living (very general)
- Mild tempered (widely applicable)
- Some balding (vague)
- Michael (a common name)

Examples of specific items generated by the EBM's included:

- Grandfather had a harmonica (specific object to specific person)
- MIT (specific university)
- Intestinal cancer cause of death in male connected to deceased (specific cause of death attached to specific person)
- Buddha statue (specific object)
- Special ring-membership / fraternity tie in (specific object and significance)
- Make sure fish in aquarium are cared for
- Sarah "for the above" (a relatively uncommon name attached to a specific person)

For the three mediums combined, 46 items were coded as general and 57 were coded as specific (14 were not easy to classify as general versus specific and were left uncoded).

Figure 4 (next page) displays the findings for the sitter (left box) and the control (right box).

**Figure 4**

The pattern of findings displayed in Figure 4 suggests that sitter ratings of general versus specific information can not explain the differences observed between the sitter and the control.

## Discussion

The present findings replicate and extend previous research indicating that long-distance readings, conducted under single-blind conditions (i.e. where the medium does not know either the identity or location of the sitter) can yield accurate and specific

information (e.g. Schwartz and Russek, 2001; Grenard and Schwartz, 2002 in preparation).

The present findings cannot be explained in terms of fraud (*i.e.* pre-reading information obtained by knowing the identity of the sitters ahead of time), cold reading, visual or auditory cues, or sensory leakage.

In addition, the totality of the findings from Experiments 1 and 2 can not be explained as sitter rater bias given the inclusion of highly specific information in the readings information that applied uniquely to the two sitters respectively compared to the matched control. Examples of specific content unique to DC are provided in Experiment 1. Moreover, in Experiment 2, the findings were replicated for SG when the items were sorted into categories of general versus specific items.

It is noteworthy that both sitters are accomplished professionals who have published numerous books and understand the requirement for rigor and caution in scientific research (*i.e.* they are not naïve / lay sitters).

The double-deceased paradigm poses substantial difficulties for purported superpsi hypotheses. First, it is not plausible to explain the present findings as mind reading of the experimenter, *per se*, since GS had virtually no knowledge of the histories of either DC's or SG's deceased loved ones. The experimental designs rule out this speculation.

Second, in order to explain the present findings as due to mind reading of the sitter, the mediums in this experiment would have had to (1) first have read the mind of the experimenter – getting both the first and last name of the sitter accurately, as well as their address, (2) then have located the sitter for Experiment 1 in Southern California and the sitter for Experiment 2 in the greater New York area, and (3) finally have read the

sitter's mind. It is noteworthy that there is no evidence that the mediums received the names of either sitter – first or last (mediums rarely get last names).

In the double-deceased paradigm, not only does the experimenter serve as a “proxy” for the sitter; the “departed hypothesized co-investigator” can be thought of as a “deceased proxy” as well.

It is possible to add the double-deceased paradigm to multi-center, double blind experiments. An initial dual center, double blind, double-deceased experiment with SS as one DHCI (the Arizona center) and KNG as a second DHCI (the New York center) is currently underway.

In the book *The Afterlife Experiments* (Schwartz, 2002), Schwartz concluded that when the totality of the findings is considered, the simplest and most parsimonious explanation that accounts for the largest amount of the data – including the “dazzle shots” (e.g. the man with throat cancer whose vocal cords were removed surgically before he died) – is the survival of consciousness hypothesis.

Following Occam's razor, we suggest that the same conclusion can be applied to the totality of the data presented in these two experiments using the double-deceased paradigm.

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