

To the Editor:

A Call for Participants: Online Study on Anomalous Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic

I am writing to inform you of a current study that aims to gather data on various anomalous experiences encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly throughout the lockdown and isolation periods. The primary focus of the study is collecting various experiences that encompass a broad spectrum of phenomena, which include, but are not limited to, ghosts and apparitions, a sense of presence, sounds, smells, movements of objects, electrical disturbances, out-of-body experiences (OBEs), near-death experiences (NDEs), after-death communications (ADCs), and extra-sensory experiences (ESP) such as precognitions, telepathy, and clairvoyance.

Additionally, it examines the psychological impacts, such as stress, anxiety, and depression, that may have contributed to these experiences. These psychological impacts stem from the COVID-19 pandemic, during which lockdowns and isolation were implemented globally to control a virus with high mortality rates, causing separation from friends and loved ones and creating dramatic lifestyle changes. Some individuals may have adapted to these changes, while others found it extremely challenging. Regardless, everyone was affected by the pandemic in some manner.

The study itself is influenced by previous literature interested in obtaining reports of spontaneous experiences on a large national scale such as *Phantasms of the Living* (Gurney et al., 1886), and *Census of Hallucinations* (Sidgwick et al., 1894).

Utilizing a contemporary methodology, the study is conducted online through JISC. It is being disseminated via social media platforms, allowing participants to submit their experiences through a link to the JISC survey. There is no time frame for the participant to complete the survey, as they get to write down their own experiences in as much detail as possible. Additional sections of the survey comprise single- and multiple-choice questions designed to assess participants' stress, anxiety, and depression levels at that specific time. On average, participants take around 20–30 minutes to complete the survey. Participants are also informed that all information for this study is stored confidentially and has been approved by the University of Northampton's ethics committee.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information and encourage additional participants to contribute to this important study. Please consider sharing this with others who may have had such experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, but do not have access to social media. The link for the JISC survey is as follows:

[https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/northampton/
anomalous-experiences-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-lockdown](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/northampton/anomalous-experiences-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-lockdown)

Potential participants can also access the survey through a QR link with their phones:



For more information about the study, participants can contact me through my email at the end of this letter.

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REFERENCES

- Gurney, E., Myers, F. W. H., & Podmore, F. (1886). *Phantasms of the living* (2 vols). Trübner.
Sidgwick, H., Johnson, A., Myers, F. W. H., Podmore, F., & Sidgwick, E. M. (1894). Report on the census of hallucinations. *Proceedings of the Society for Psychological Research*, 10, 25–394.