

Letter to the Editor¹

To the Editor,

I read with great interest the article “Understanding the factors at play in the sender–receiver dynamic during telepathy ganzfeld: A meta-analysis” (Pooley et al., 2023) in the latest issue of the *Journal of Anomalous Experience and Cognition* in which the authors disregarded Parra’s ganzfeld studies, remarking that: “serious fraudulent actions and widespread plagiarism conducted by Alejandro Parra [...] we deemed it best to remove all the Parra studies from the dataset (a total of 5 data points). I am in agreement to discard studies containing plagiarism, however these ganzfeld studies are not affected by plagiarism or experimental fraud. All ganzfeld studies were performed under supervision with me as co-author. I understand Parra was involved, but it is unfair to involve other people who worked on those studies as well, such as Juan Carlos Argibay (a statistical advisor) and me.

The results were evaluated by Juan Carlos Argibay (a statistical advisor) in a double masked fashion, which was standard protocol. I understand the “weight” of plagiarism would tend one to suspect experimental fraud, but it was absolutely impossible. Plagiarism refers to unacknowledged paragraphs in some articles, but they did not affect the validity of the experimental results. Lance Storm (2021a,b) never retracted our articles in AJP nor did Malcolm Schofield, editor of the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* (they both cited a list of articles plagiarized; but had faith in the experimental results). In fact, Storm, who analyzed specifically plagiarism, opined that although one of our studies had a large effect size as ($>.30$), another had a very small

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ES (.025) leading him to conclude (Storm, 2021a, p. 97): "So there does not seem to be any convincing evidence of suspiciously inflated psi effect in article that Parra has co-authored." However, Storm's analysis was not quoted in Pooley, Murray and Watt's article. Also, Storm quoted our letters (by Argibay and me) where we both stated that we were not involved in the writing of the text except for the data analysis. The experimental procedures, recruitment of participants, and data collection were conducted by me in four studies at least (both the ganzfeld studies and a mirror gazing ESP using Moody's psychomanteum) and the same applies to Argibay in other studies on psychometry performed under the sponsorship of the Bial Foundation. Storm stated that Parra "exonerated" us (Argibay and me) from being responsible for the final content of the ganzfeld articles.

I submit this Letter to JAEX in order to distinguish that the Ganzfeld database and Parra's plagiarism are two different things. Parra no longer leads the Institute of which I have been President since 2021. As a consequence, the databases (printed and digital) are available in our files section here for any researcher interested in checking them.

References

Pooley, A., Murray, A., & Watt, C. (2023). Understanding the factors at play in the sender-receiver dynamic during the telepathy ganzfeld: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Anomalous Experience and Cognition*, 3(1), 42–77. <https://doi.org/10.31156/jaex.23878>

Storm, L. (2021a). Plagiarism in articles by Alejandro Parra. *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 21, 95–115.

Storm, L. (2021b). Plagiarism in articles by Alejandro Parra (Cont'd). *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 21, 208–219.