

Betty Markwick

Betty Markwick (b 1933) is a British mathematician and statistician, credited with having uncovered fraud in ESP experiments by SG Soal.

Early Life

Betty Markwick was born in 1933 and studied mathematics at London University. She later worked as a computer programmer.

Psychical Research

Having read *Modern Experiments in Telepathy* by [SG Soal](#) and F Bateman, Markwick joined the [Society for Psychical Research](#) (SPR) in 1969. She became its statistical adviser, sometimes critiquing the methodologies employed by ESP researchers.¹

In the early 1940s, SPR researcher SG Soal reported apparently successful results in ESP card-guessing experiments with Basil Shackleton as the subject. Certain circumstances led later to suspicions of cheating being voiced. In the 1970s, collaborating with [DJ West](#), Markwick used computer technology to expose likely manipulation by SG Soal of data sheets, with the insertion of extra digits to create a false ESP effect. Markwick's expertise in this regard has been called 'exemplary'.²

See [here](#) for full details of the fraud and its exposure.

Selected Works

Articles

Correspondence (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 287-88.

The Soal-Goldney experiments with Basil Shackleton: New evidence of data manipulation (1978). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 56, 250-77.

Notes: Re-analysis of some free-response data (1988). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 55, 220-22.

Two tests of survival after death: Report on negative results (1989, with I. Stevenson and A. Oram). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 55, 329-36.

The Spinelli database (1990). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 56, 225-28.

Critique of the PEAR remote-viewing experiments (1992, with G.P. Hansen and J. Utts). *Journal of Parapsychology* 56/2, 97-113.

ESP experiments (1994). *Psi Researcher* 12, 8.

A television ESP experiment (1995, with M.R. Barrington). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 60, 267-69.

Correspondence (2007). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 71, 258-59.

Dr Soal: A psychic enigma (2018, with D.J. West). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 224.

Book Chapters

Dream states and ESP: A distance experiment with a single subject (1982, with J. Beloff). In *Research in Parapsychology*, ed. by W.G. Roll, J. Beloff and R.A. White Metuchen, New Jersey, USA: Scarecrow Press.

The establishment of data manipulation in the Soal-Shackleton experiments (1985). In *A Skeptic's Handbook of Parapsychology*, ed. by P. Kurtz. Buffalo, New York, USA: Prometheus Books.

Dream states and ESP: A distance experiment featuring a pure clairvoyance, free-response design (1987, with J. Beloff). In *Research in Parapsychology*, ed. by D.H. Weiner and R.L. Morris. Metuchen, New Jersey, USA: Scarecrow Press

Book Reviews

Know your own Psi-Q, by H.J. Eysenck & C. Sargent (1984). Review of chapter 10 and appendices. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 52, 397-99.

The Transcendental Temptation: A Critique of Religion and the Paranormal, by P. Kurtz (1991). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 57, 366-69.

Melvyn Willin

Literature

Markwick, B. (1984). Review of *Know your own Psi-Q*, by H.J. Eysenck & C. Sargent. Chapter 10 and appendices. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 52, 397-99.

Markwick, B. et al. (1993) cited in *Psi Researcher* 9, 20.

Pratt, J.G. (1978). Statement. *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 56, 279-81.

Endnotes

Footnotes

- [1](#) e.g., Markwick (1984), 399; Markwick (1993), 20.
- [2](#) Pratt (1978), 279.