

Corrigendum

PLAGIARISM IN ARTICLES BY ALEJANDRO PARRA

Recently, the editor of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration (JSE)* retracted a 2017 article by Argentinian parapsychologist Dr. Alejandro Parra for “extensive plagiarism” (Braude, 2021, p. 5). Like all journals, the editorial board of the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology (AJPara)* does not consider plagiarism of an author’s work to be a means of honouring that author, as is the case in some non-western countries (Nash, 2018). It should go without saying, that the publisher of *AJPara*—the Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research, Inc. (AIPR)—does not, and *will not* tolerate plagiarism. It should also go without saying that it is not merely for reasons to do with copyright violations of other authors’ work, and the associated risks of prosecution by the offended authors (or their publishers) that we hold this ethical position—it is also in the name of academic honesty and the true progress of science that we frown upon plagiarism of any sort. However, it seems on occasion that it does need saying.

While it might be pointed out that there are various forms of plagiarism, there is no necessity to do that here—suffice it to say the most offensive form is *direct plagiarism* (word-for-word transcription of whole sections of another author’s text without citing the author, without the use of quotation marks, and without full reference to the source). Direct plagiarism might also be called “clear plagiarism” (Wager, 2011, p. 2). We will not deal with the lesser issue of self-plagiarism (i.e., duplication or redundant publication) as there are no offended parties. Our definition of plagiarism follows that of the American Association of University Professors (1989):

Taking over the ideas, methods, or written words of another, without acknowledgment and with the intention that they be taken as the work of the deceiver. (pp. 47-48)

In this sense, some years ago (and therefore prior to the *JSE* retraction), it had been brought to my attention by two researchers (Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore and Dr. Harvey Irwin) that Parra had *plagiarized their work directly*. I therefore emailed Parra and reminded him of the offensive nature of the practice (personal communication, September 19, 2014), and he stated that he would “make changes in order to avoid plagiarism” (A. Parra, personal communication, September 20, 2014). To jump the gun somewhat (as I will give a few statistics shortly), it is to

Parra's credit that the incidence of detectable plagiarism *in some form* was reduced from that time in four of his articles published in the period 2015 to 2018 (he has not published in *AJPara* since June of 2018). And the period 2013 to 2017 shows minimal plagiarism.

I note a point of contention held by some of my colleagues and others (e.g., publishers) over so-called minor plagiarism, with mixed opinions about it—some (like myself) regarding it as inoffensive (and not actionable), as it is not nearly as offensive or objectionable as *major* (i.e., *extensive*) plagiarism. For example, but not to undermine my words of disapprobation above, the Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE; as cited in Wager, 2011) states:

if only a small section of an article (e.g. a few sentences in the discussion) is plagiarized, Editors should consider whether readers (and the plagiarized author) would be best served by a correction (which could note the fact that text was used without appropriate acknowledgement) rather than retracting the entire article which may contain sound original data in other parts. (p. 3)

I tend to agree with COPE that one infraction does not inductively imply another of a different kind (e.g., data fraud), as some might think, so I too suggest (i) a correction will suffice in some instances, and (ii) that data and associated findings presented in the same article as the plagiarism is not necessarily to be mistrusted.

Regarding (i), though some might unhesitatingly insist that even minor plagiarism in Parra's *AJPara* articles warrants more than correction, there is no consensus among journal editors on how to determine sufficient grounds for retraction (nor is there for relevant authorities on these matters; e.g., see Wager, 2011, p. 9). Regarding (ii), I can state for a fact that a few editors (past and present) of parapsychological publications only have their suspicions to go on that Parra's data might be fraudulent. So, the two issues that need addressing here are plagiarism and data falsification.

I find, *at the very least*, that corrections are warranted in Parra's *AJPara* articles for the two reasons given by COPE—namely, (a) the papers have a small number of sentences (though some are lengthy) that are plagiarized, and (b) there is evidence of “sound original data”. I will first deal with the data in Parra's *AJPara* articles as the likelihood of its falsification is easily despatched, after which I will focus on the issue of plagiarism.

In terms of data, Parra published 13 articles with *AJPara* from 2003 to 2018. Eight are co-authored and five are solo works. Having checked these 13 articles, I found only two of these were ganzfeld papers (Parra & Villanueva, 2004; 2006), and these were featured in two ganzfeld meta-analyses (Storm & Tressoldi, 2020; Storm, Tressoldi, & Di Risio, 2010).

The effect sizes (ESs) were large ($> .30$), but that is not so unusual—ESs were also above $.30$ for Dalton (1997a), Parker (2006), Parker and Westerlund (1998), Roe and Flint (2007), and Wezelman et al. (1997). I found one study in another parapsychological journal (Parra & Argibay, 2007) with a very weak ES ($.025$). So there does not seem to be any convincing evidence of suspiciously inflated psi effects in articles that Parra has co-authored.

For Parra's papers in general, and speaking mainly of *psychological* effects, I found, for a considerable 348 tests (in all Parra's *AJPara* papers that included statistical test results), a 50% success rate in terms of finding significance in various tests (e.g., correlational or group differences). In other words, Parra (with or without his co-experimenters) hits as often as he misses, but if that seems high, it is much easier to get significant psychological effects than significant parapsychological effects, the latter of which are around 30% (see Storm & Tressoldi, 2020; Storm et al., 2010). That aside, comparable success rates of 30% to 50%, and even higher, are found for the social sciences, including psychology (Open Science Collaboration, 2015; Replicability-Index, 2019; Schimmack, 2020).

Now to the problem of plagiarism: It first needs stating that Parra's two co-authors, Juan Carlos Argibay (University of Buenos Aires) and Jorge Villanueva, have both stated they were not involved in the actual writing (including the selecting of text) of Parra's papers (J. C. Argibay, personal communication, April 22, 2021; J. Villanueva, personal communication, April 20, 2021). Setting up experimental procedures, recruitment of participants, and data collection were conducted by Villanueva (and co-experimenters if any) in studies #1, #2, #3, and #6; the same applies to Argibay (and co-experimenters if any) in studies #4, #5, #8, and #11 (see APPENDIX). Argibay conducted all statistical analyses. Parra concedes to being the author of all material under scrutiny here (to use his words, he "exonerated" his co-authors), and is thereby responsible, *as first author*, for the final content of all 13 articles (A. Parra, personal communication, April 19, 2021).

My procedure for plagiarism checking is as follows. After trying a number of online plagiarism checkers, I settled for [Plagiarism Detector](#) as it did a better job of identifying plagiarized content and their sources (although specific percentages were also given, I found these confusing and inaccurate so I did not use them). I found that sampling the entirety of the Introduction plus the Discussion (i.e., **Introduction + Discussion**) of each of the 13 articles sufficed in determining that there *was* plagiarism, and to an approximate degree. Specifically, I found percentages by first finding the total word count of plagiarized content drawn from the original sources, and I then divided that figure by the combined word counts of **Introduction + Discussion**.

As an example, 'Plagiarism Detector' identified 75% of the Introduction in Parra and Villanueva (2003) as plagiarized material. In that instance, the so-called plagiarism traced back to two Internet uploads of the one original *AJPara* article, thus indicating no evidence of plagiarism, since the so-called 'plagiarism' only referred to Parra's original work and no other source(s).¹ The total of the Introduction word count is 703. However, in checking the Discussion (count = 494), 119 words were found to be plagiarized from Dalton (1997b). Therefore, the percent of plagiarized material is $119/(703 + 494) = 119/1197$ (9.9%). In fact, all original (i.e., source) material had to be manually searched for plagiarized content, and while the amount of plagiarized text might arguably be larger (if, for example, some text was inadvertently missed), it cannot be *smaller* given what *was* identified, so it is possible that some percentages in this report may be conservative (i.e., in Parra's favour). (NB: While citations are included in some estimates, their deletions made little difference to the final figures.)

The following list of articles includes (in **BOLD**) *AJPara* citation, Decision (e.g., **Minor Plagiarism**), the fraction (i.e., word count of plagiarized content over total word count of **Introduction + Discussion**), percentage (%) of plagiarized content, and number of sentences plagiarized. The text in quotes is the actual content from its original source, which is effectively the same as it appears in the Parra articles (excluding content in square brackets which Parra did not use, and excluding words he entered of his own choosing).² Text *not* used by Parra is implied by ellipses (... or). Unless otherwise stated in footnotes, sources were not cited or referenced by Parra.

1. Parra & Villanueva (2003)—Decision: Minor Plagiarism (119/1197 = 9.9%; 3 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction:** No plagiarism identified.
- **Discussion (p. 171):** "However, this variable is somewhat debated (Bierman 1993; Dalton & Utts, 1995), as extraverts are those people who generally feel at ease in most social situations and enjoy interactions with groups of people, and would thus feel more relaxed in the social setting of the laboratory. Introverts typically prefer to work alone, finding most social interactions with a multitude of people overwhelming and uncomfortable. For this reason it is felt that introverts may do as well as extraverts in

¹ http://www.alipsi.com.ar/wp-content/uploads/Parra_Villanueva2003b_001.pdf and http://www.alipsi.com.ar/investigaciones/pdf/ajp_personality_ganzfeld.pdf

² One exception: Parra (2015) included the square brackets that were in the original text by Kumar and Pekala (2001).

ganzfeld research if some way were found to provide a more conducive social setting for them – one in which they were not required to speak aloud about normally private thoughts, or interact with more than one person throughout the experiment.” (Dalton, 1997b, p. 73).³

2. Parra and Villanueva (2004)—Decision: Minor Plagiarism (118/1202 = 9.8%; 5 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 115):** “The words used to describe feelings very often have a slightly but significantly different meaning for each individual.” (Dawson, 1990, p. 264);
- **Introduction (p. 115):** “[For Jung (1921),] *feeling* was the function of consciousness which tells one "how and to what extent a thing is important or unimportant for us" ” (Dawson, 1990, p. 264);
- **Introduction (p. 115):** “According to Leonard Meyer (1956) and other pioneer psychologists, it is theoretically possible to detect the emotion [(invoked feelings that are temporary ... in music] if these emotions are contained entirely within the context of the music itself.” (Gupta & Korhonen, 2001);
- **Introduction (p. 115):** “Gabrielsson (1982) places the responses into three categories: experiential [(“various perceptual, cognitive, and emotional variables” [p. 160])], behavioral (actions performed as a result of the rhythm), and physiological.... More specifically, affected individuals are rarely aware of all of their responses, such as changes in heart rate or respiration, or even toe tapping.” (Severance, 1999);
- **Discussion:** No plagiarism identified.

3. Parra and Villanueva (2006)—Decision: Minor Plagiarism (202/2172 = 9.3%; 6 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 168):** “laboratory work that used hypnotic suggestion, dreams, meditation, and partial sensory deprivation.” (Alvarado, 1998, p. 27);⁴
- **Introduction (p. 168):** “Attitudinal factors may be affected; that is, ESP performance may be enhanced by virtue of the fact that, while in one of these states of consciousness, the individual is more inclined to believe that ESP is possible; the state of consciousness may thus help to break down or suspend the

³ Dalton (1997b) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

⁴ Alvarado (1998) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

participant's socially-conditioned intellectual defences against the notion of ESP." (Irwin & Watt, 2007, p. 73);

- **Introduction (pp. 169-170):** "few experiments include a control condition in which ganzfeld stimulation is compared directly with a non-ganzfeld condition [because] such a comparison is of direct relevance to the question of whether ganzfeld stimulation is psi-conducive.... A secondary aim of the study was to gain more insight into the effect of ganzfeld stimulation on [subjects]." (Murre, van Dalen, Dias, & Schouten, 1988, pp. 103-104, 105);⁵
- **Discussion (p. 180):** "The argument is that although some procedures may have a track record of producing ESP, we do not know [if] an alteration in consciousness has occurred, or at what degree, and [if] alteration of consciousness contributes in any way to success in the [test]... Moreover, others have mentioned problems such as lack of control groups, a variety of design and individual difference problems (Stanford, 1987), and an alternative (more general) explanation using expectancy effects of different types." (Alvarado, 1998, p. 45).

4. Parra and Argibay (2008)—Decision: Major Plagiarism (323/1483 = 21.8%; 11 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 48):** "He correctly described that she was dead, the location of her body and the man who murdered her. His information led police to the girl's body and to the murderer, who was convicted of the crime." (Psychometric Analysis, 2007);
- **Introduction (p. 49):** "Probably because of the importance [of its] role in social interaction, psychological processes involved in face perception are [known to be] present from birth, complex, involve large and widely distributed areas in the brain.... Whilst there is no question that the majority of face perception skills developed by adults are not present in babies, there is evidence of an innate tendency to pay attention to faces from birth. It is known that early perceptual experience is crucial to the development of visual perception and this orienting response undoubtedly encourages the rapid development of face specific skills such as the ability to identify friendly others and relatively complex pre-verbal communication." (Academic Kids, 2005);
- **Introduction (p. 49):** "there are seven distinct types of information that we derive from seen faces[; these are] labelled

⁵ Murre et al. (1998) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

pictorial, structural, visually derived semantic, identity-specific semantic, name, expression and facial speech codes.... Recognition of familiar faces involves a match between the products of structural encoding and previously stored structural codes describing the appearance of familiar faces[,] held in face recognition units.” (Bruce & Young, 1986, p. 305);⁶

- **Introduction (p. 49):** “In addition, one should not underestimate the experience psychics might gain in their profession. Undoubtedly, some psychics who specialize, for instance, in locating missing persons, may have a much larger experience with such cases than the average police officer. Whatever the source of their statements, their experience and expertise in certain areas might make it worthwhile to consult them for advice, even if they were to make no genuine paranormal statements in a given session.” (Schouten, 2017, p. 251);
- **Introduction (p. 49):** “One of the most widely accepted theories of face perception argues that understanding faces involves several stages[:] from basic perceptual manipulations [on] the sensory information ... (such as age, gender or attractiveness), to being able to recall meaningful details such as [their] name and [any] relevant past experiences of the individual.” (Wikipedia, 2008/2021);
- **Discussion:** No plagiarism identified.

5. Parra and Argibay (2009)—Decision: Major Plagiarism (453/2058 = 22%; 19 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 58):** “Even then it is often not easy to assess the value of the statements. When a client interacts with a psychic and comments on the psychic’s statements these comments can provide additional information [which] should be taken into account when evaluating subsequent statements. For quantitative analysis this constitutes such a problem that as a rule in experiments such comments[, the feedback,] are excluded. Therefore these experimental studies are not entirely representative [for] the conditions under which a psychic normally works.” (Schouten, 1993, p. 378);⁷
- **Introduction (pp. 58-59):** “[C]old reading is a technique [often] used by [mentalists, fortune tellers,] psychics, and mediums to determine details about another person in order to convince them

⁶ Bruce and Young (2008) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

⁷ Schouten (1993) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

that the reader knows much more about a subject than he or she actually does. [Even without prior knowledge of a person, a] practiced cold reader can still quickly obtain a great deal of information about the subject by carefully analyzing the person's body language, [clothing or fashion, hairstyle,] gender, [sexual orientation,] religion, [race or ethnicity,] level of education, manner of speech" (Leverage Wiki, n.d.);

- **Introduction (p. 59):** "Cold reader[s] commonly] employ high probability guesses about the subject, quickly picking up on signals from their subjects as to whether their guesses are in the right direction or not, and then emphasizing and reinforcing any chance connections the subjects acknowledge while quickly moving on from missed guesses." (Candle, 2009/2014);
- **Introduction (p. 59):** "Haraldsson (1985) found that of those who had attended a séance, a surprising 83% had found the experience "useful." [With] Palmer's (1979) [S]tudent sample, evaluations of the readings [are] similarly quite favorable, as 67% found the experience to have been very helpful, 22% somewhat so, and 78% claimed to have acted on the advice. None reported the experience to have been harmful. For Palmer's (1979) [T]ownspeople', 15% found the reading very helpful and 30% somewhat helpful. However, 52% found the experience of no help, and 3% reported it actually to have been harmful. This generally favorable impression of psychic readings is not thought to be restricted to a small subsection of the population.... Attempts to account for the success of psychic readings (e.g., Hyman, [1977,] 1981; Roe, 1991) often implicitly assume that clients take their readings very seriously.... Palmer (1979) gives a very interesting and detailed breakdown of the general impact of psychic experiences upon his respondents' lives, focusing particularly on effects upon their "feelings or attitudes" and important life decisions that they had made. On the basis of Palmer's analysis, it does appear that psi has had profound consequences for some. For example, an astounding 9% of respondents claimed that their experiences had saved them in a crisis, and a further 9% that someone else had been saved as a result of their experience. Unfortunately, Palmer's breakdown does not identify the different types of experience that gave rise to the various effects. It would be informative to see, for example, whether psychic readings have altered participants' perceptions and/or actions in important ways." (Roe, 1998, pp. 27-28);⁸

⁸ Roe (1998) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

- **Discussion:** No plagiarism identified.

6. Parra and Villanueva (2010)—Decision: Major Plagiarism (369/1915 = 19.2%; 12 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction:** No plagiarism identified;
- **Discussion (p. 133):** “From the study, [both authors] are under the impression that the mentation provided by receivers is similar, and possibly indistinguishable, in nature from [ganzfeld] mentation and therefore that this approach may be of use in the investigation of ESP. Also, casual observations in relation to the protocol, such as the need for a relaxation period to help in the transition between ‘every-day alertness’ and an ‘ESP mentality’ have provided pointers that may assist in the development of a protocol that is psi-conducive [rather than one that results in psi-missing].” (Simmonds & Fox, 2002);
- **Discussion (pp. 133-134):** “Previous research indicates that participants’ perceptual (cognitive and motivational) biases and the implicit demands of a procedure act to influence the induction of hallucinations (Bentall, 1990, 2000). Given that suggestion can exhibit a causal role in the experience of anomalous perceptions [(Lange and Houran, 1997)], it is plausible that the incidence of apparitions in the psychomanteum is a function of explicit suggestions for such experiences presented during the facilitation procedure. This effect may be augmented by enhanced suggestibility, which has been documented during drowsiness, restricted environmental stimulation, and dissociation (Cardena and Spiegel, 1991[; Wallace and Fisher, 1999]). The clear optical depth of the mirror may possess greater perceptual malleability such that percepts may be open to greater (unconscious) alteration in accordance with one’s beliefs, motivations, and expectations ([Brugger, 2001;] Hilgard, 1986, p. 88[; Lange and Houran, 2001]). Thus, paranormal belief may inflate reports of anomalous experiences by biasing participants toward belief-congruent interpretations of ambiguous or unstable perceptions.... Mirror-gazing may facilitate dissociative processes through its generation of a mild form of variation reduction [(Wallace and Fisher, 1999)]. Narrowing, and passively maintaining, attention upon a monotonous, homogenous perceptual field (as in ganzfeld-stimulation; Wackerman et al., 2002) may induce an absorption in the stimulus, especially in the presence of a need for sensory stimulation. These developments will lead to the exhaustion of an

individual's attentional resources and the concomitant reduction in awareness of internal stimuli and external stimuli divorced from the target stimulus, and thereby foster perceptual distortions. As with ganzfeld, hypnosis, and absorption (Cardena, 2005; Roche and McConkey, 1990[; Vaitl et al., 2005]), [mirror-gazing] may produce a shift from a lexical to an imagic mode of cognition, advancing an increase in visual imagery, and, thereby, a magnification of hallucination-proneness. [Mediated by] a detached phenomenological state, cognitive disinhibition, the inability to inhibit the emergence of material into consciousness, [will] predispose individuals to experience anomalous perceptions while mirror-gazing." (Terhune & Smith, 2006, pp. 415-416);⁹

7. Parra (2011)—Decision: Major Plagiarism (301/1707 = 17.6%; 11 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (pp. 61-62):** "Thinking styles have been the subject of hundreds of research projects studying the links between personality type and different aspects of life. According to Sternberg (1997), a thinking style is not an aptitude, but rather the way one chooses to use [his/her] aptitudes. Thinking style refers to what [a person] prefer[s] to do, and how they like to do it. Observing that IQ tests tend to be poor predictors of [an individual's] capacity to solve everyday practical problems or [his/her] successful negotiat[ion of] major life events, Epstein and Meier (1989) began to explore a *nonintellectual form of intelligence unrelated to IQ* (Epstein & Meier, 1989, p. 333). They identified a nonintellectual cognitive ability which they termed constructive thinking (CT)." (Baloğlu & Karadağ, 2009, p. 81);
- **Introduction (p. 62):** "More specifically, CT is a form of experiential intelligence – common sense information that is acquired through experience – [that] reflects the ability to deal with problems effectively through the use of different thinking styles and behavioural and emotional coping strategies (Epstein & Meier, 1989). Epstein and his colleagues view constructive thinking as an aspect of practical intelligence and general coping ability (Epstein, 1992; Epstein & Meier, 1989) [that], while distinct from measures of neuroticism (Katz & Epstein, 1991), is predictive of how productive persons become while managing stress in their lives (Epstein & Katz, 1992). CT has [successfully] predicted success in [varied] life-domains (e.g. school, work, and interpersonal

⁹ Terhune and Smith (2006) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

relationships) and could help to explain [both SWB and] the relationship between personality and [SWB] (Epstein & Meier, 1989)". (Baloğlu & Karadağ, 2009, p. 81-82);

- **Introduction (p. 62):** "[Teacher] paranormal beliefs were found to be correlated with cognitive perceptual and disorganized schizotypal thinking and intuitive thinking styles. The overall pattern of the correlations suggests that intuitive thinking style and schizotypal thinking contribute independently to paranormal belief. [This study confirms] the findings of Wolfradt, Oubaid, Straube, Bischoff, and Mischo (1999) of a statistically significant difference in paranormal belief between thinking style [groups], although the effect size was small." (Genovese, 2005, p. 93).¹⁰
- **Discussion:** No plagiarism identified;

8. Parra and Argibay (2013)—Decision: No Plagiarism (0/743 = 0%; 0 sentences).

- **Introduction:** No plagiarism identified;
- **Discussion:** No plagiarism identified.

9. Parra (2013)—Decision: Minor Plagiarism (63/1876 = 3.3%; 3 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 188):** "To this end several "premonition bureaus" have been established, including some on the World-Wide Web. People who have [a] premonition are invited to register [it] with one of the bureaus before the precognized events take place." (Irwin & Watt, 2007, p. 88);¹¹
- **Discussion (p. 202):** "The researcher should be alert to these ecological vehicles of expression and consider the extent to which specific laboratory findings may be generalized to the various forms." (Irwin & Watt, 2007, p. 39);

10. Parra (2015)—Decision: Minor Plagiarism (119/2474 = 4.8%; 3 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 39):** "Cook and Irwin observed that "the NCF data revealed no significant tendency for [OBE] experients to possess higher imagery control than nonexperients ... [but] there is evidence that experients do have superior spatial abilities" (p. 30). Thus, they concluded that it is not the capacity for visual imagery, two or three dimensional per se, but it is the ability to transform

¹⁰ Genovese (2005) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

¹¹ Irwin and Watt (2007) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

“certain visuospatial information so as to create a novel perspective” (p. 52) that differentiates the OBEers from the non-OBEers. They noted that their finding is consistent with Blackmore’s [(1982b)] observation that “the realism of the OBE’s perceptual-like content [is related] to visuospatial processes in imagery” (p. 32) and possibly to the ability to switch viewpoints in remembered scenes [as observed by Blackmore (1983)].” (Kumar & Pekala, 2001, p. 265);¹²

- **Discussion:** No plagiarism identified.

11. Parra and Argibay (2016)—Decision: Minor Plagiarism (20/1566 = 1.3%; 1 sentence) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction:** No plagiarism identified;
- **Discussion (p. 78):** “[Psi researchers often] use the term *sensitivity* when theorizing that certain persons may be more [apt to register] anomalous influences than others (e.g. Cornell, 2000).” (Jawer, 2006, p. 25).

12. Parra (2017)—Decision: Minor Plagiarism (43/1938 = 2.2%; 1 sentence) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 129):** “As measured by the Tellegen Absorption Scale (TAS), absorption has been linked to hypnotic susceptibility, heightened creativity and imagistic processing, dissociation, decreased self-involvement and intensive involvement in imagination-based activities with concomitant alterations in consciousness as well as a heightened openness to experience.” (Levin & Young, 2001-2002, p. 203);¹³
- **Discussion:** No plagiarism identified.

13. Parra (2018)—Decision: Moderate Plagiarism (215/3221 = 6.7%; 8 sentences) due to Unacknowledged Use of the Following Text.

- **Introduction (p. 25):** “Much of Western research is premised upon ethnocentric, egocentric, and dogmatic perspectives regarding belief in spirit communication, a foundational commonality in mediumship [and mediumistic-like beliefs and practices].” (Hageman & Krippner, 2014, p. 109);
- **Introduction (p. 27):** “[t]here were no differences on the Somatoform Dissociation Questionnaire (SDQ-20), which measures physical symptoms that are reported more frequently in

¹² Kumar and Pekala (2001) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

¹³ Levin and Young (2001-2002) is cited and referenced (no actual quoting of this text).

patients with DID compared to other psychiatric diagnoses.... Mediums scored significantly higher than controls on [a measure of] absorption ... and temporal lobe symptoms.... Reinsel [(2003)] suggests that the lack of high scores on the SDQ-20 for mediums could be interpreted [thus]: (a) dissociation among mediums is not clinically severe; and/or (b) the etiology of mediumship is not related to childhood trauma (p. 215).... Laria (2000) [used the] Dissociative Experience Scale (DES) [to compare] Cuban Spiritist mediums [with] individuals [who had] mental health problems [and controls, and found that] normal dissociative experiences [could occur at] high [levels of] intensity and frequency.... [Laria also explored the personality] trait *boundary-thinness* [which is characterized] by openness, sensitivity, and ease of entering an altered state of consciousness (Hartmann, 1991) [and found both individuals with] mental health problems and mediums [scored at] significantly [higher] (*thinner*) [levels] than controls.” (Roe & Roxburgh, 2014, p. 72).

- **Discussion (p. 41):** “A number of studies have been presented with supportive documentation that channeling and mediumship-like practices across a wide variety of circumstances (e.g., meditative, ecstatic, religious, esoteric, indigenous, shamanic, spiritual) do not automatically equate to maladaptive mental health. What is most informative is that [the] culturally embedded beliefs and practices influence the medium’s role, acceptance, and psychological health in [their] respective culture, which [is in] align[ment] with the biopsychosocial paradigm.” (Hageman & Krippner, 2014, p. 117).

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I acknowledge that failure to cite and reference sources could be an oversight on Parra’s part, but unfortunately neither I (as editor), nor the reviewers, can pick up these omissions at the peer-review stage. However, Parra must have realized the sources he was plagiarizing were obvious references, and should have seen to it that they were cited and referenced. Of the seven articles with *minor* plagiarism, three had such omissions:

- Article #2 (Parra & Villanueva, 2004) failed to cite and reference all four plagiarized sources;
- Article #3 (Parra & Villanueva, 2006) failed to cite and reference two out of four plagiarized sources;

- Article #9 (Parra, 2013) failed to cite and reference one out of two plagiarized sources;

The one article with *moderate* plagiarism, Article #13 (Parra, 2018) failed to cite and reference all three plagiarized sources. For the four articles with *major* plagiarism:

- Article #4 (Parra & Argibay, 2008) failed to cite and reference four out of five plagiarized sources;
- Article #5 (Parra & Argibay, 2009) failed to cite and reference two out of four plagiarized sources;
- Article #6 (Parra & Villanueva, 2010) failed to cite and reference one out of two plagiarized sources;
- Article #7 (Parra, 2011) failed to cite and reference two out of three plagiarized sources.

In short, *at least* 50% of the time, references for sources were not supplied.

In conclusion, the evaluations presented here were to determine the degree of plagiarism in the 13 above-listed articles, and set the record straight; namely, that corrections *at least* are in order. There is evidence of *minor* (or *no*) plagiarism in eight articles, and one with *moderate* plagiarism (but with *eight* sentences plagiarized), and four with *major* plagiarism. As eight sentences is more than a few, the one article with *moderate* plagiarism perhaps counts as more like *major* plagiarism, which is decided on the basis of an excessive percentage of plagiarized material, and/or an excessive number of sentences plagiarized. For the two reasons given by COPE—namely, (i) the papers have only a few sentences plagiarized, and (ii) there is evidence of ‘sound original data’, I find that

1. One article is free of plagiarism (Parra & Argibay, 2013);
2. No further action other than the *corrections* given above are warranted for seven of Parra’s *AJPara* articles (Parra, 2013, 2015, 2017; Parra & Argibay, 2016; Parra & Villanueva, 2003, 2004, 2006); and,
3. Five articles with *moderate* to *major* plagiarism may require further action (Parra, 2011, 2018; Parra & Argibay, 2008, 2009; Parra & Villanueva, 2010).

In the case of (1), there is no further action. In the case of (2), and in accordance with guidelines set by the International Association of

Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers,¹⁴ I am alerting readers to a correction in the publishing record of the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, but I will not change its publishing history (print or digital, hard-copy or online). Further regarding (1) and (2), I have followed CSIRO's (CSIRO Publishing, 1996-2021) plagiarism policy, which is in line with COPE core practices and guidelines.

In the case of (3), where the issue of possible retraction is raised for five articles, I note that CSIRO only considers a retraction necessary if, following an investigation: "it is found that a published paper contains errors serious enough to invalidate its results and conclusions" (CSIRO Publishing, 1996-2021). As noted above, I did not find any of the 13 articles, let alone the five under scrutiny for major plagiarism, warranted retractions under that criterion. However, my next step is to contact the authors whose material was plagiarized *to a major degree* and seek their preferences. Assuming I hear back from them over the next six months, I shall publish their decisions in the December issue of the journal.

—LANCE STORM

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¹⁴ See International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers. Preserving the record of science. <http://www.stm-assoc.org/documents/#type=Guidelines>

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APPENDIX

ARTICLES EVALUATED FOR PLAGIARISM IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Study	Yr. (Vol./Iss).	Article Title
1	2003 (3.2)	Parra, A., & Villanueva, J. (2003). Personality factors and psi-ganzfeld sessions: A replication and extension. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 3(2), 159–174.
2	2004 (4.2)	Parra, A., & Villanueva, J. (2004). Technical paper no. 7. Are musical themes better than visual images as ESP-targets? An experimental study using the ganzfeld technique. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 4(2), 114–127.
3	2006 (6.2)	Parra, A., & Villanueva, J. (2006). ESP under the ganzfeld, in contrast with the induction of relaxation as a psi-conducive state. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 6(2), 167–185.
4	2008 (8.1)	Parra, A., & Argibay, J. C. (2008). Reading faces: An experimental exploration of psychometry using photographs and names. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 8(1), 47–57.
5	2009 (9.1)	Parra, A., & Argibay, J. C. (2009). Psychics vs. non-psychics in “face-to-face” and “remote” token-object reading conditions. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 9(1), 57–69.
6	2010 (10.2)	Parra, A., & Villanueva, J. (2010). Unusual perceptual experiences and ESP under psychomanteum stimulation: Imagery/hallucination proneness and schizotypal personality measures. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 10(2), 120–138.
7	2011 (11.1)	Parra, A. (2011). Thinking styles of psychic claimants. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 11(1), 61-71.
8	2013 (13.1)	Parra, A., & Argibay, J. C. (2013). A free-response ESP test in two hypnotic susceptibility groups: A pilot study. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 13(1), 27-35.
9	2013 (13.2)	Parra, A. (2013). A phenomenological examination of premonition experiences in dreams and waking states: A survey study. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 13(2), 187-212.

ARTICLES EVALUATED FOR PLAGIARISM IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER
(CONT'D)

Study	Yr. (Vol./Iss).	Article Title
10	2015 (15.1)	Parra, A. (2015). Seeing rare things with the mind's eye: Visual imagery vividness and paranormal/anomalous experiences. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 15(1), 37-51.
11	2016 (16.1)	Parra, A., & Argibay, J. C. (2016). Individual, perceptual and psychological differences between psi-tested self-claimed psychics and non-psychics. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 16(1), 63-84.
12	2017 (17.2)	Parra, A. (2017). Phenomenology of non-dream premonition experience and its relationship with cognitive style, absorption, and luckiness. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 17(2), 127-145.
13	2018 (18.1)	Parra, A. (2018). Perceptual-personality variables associated with entity encounter experiences. <i>Australian Journal of Parapsychology</i> , 18(1), 23-48.