

## Beyond Beliefs: **Glossary**

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*This is a glossary of terms that have been used specifically to highlight approaches or arguments that are discussed in this thesis. It also includes definitions of psi phenomena and psi-specific words and terms that were clarified in the introduction and used subsequently in the thesis.*

- Anti-psi proponent** A psi researcher who maintains that psi is best explained by normal means such as fraud, flukes of coincidence or flaky experimental methodology.
- Big Change Natural hypothesis (BCN)** Psi phenomena are genuinely anomalous and best explained by introducing new ontological categories in order to account for the phenomena.
- Clairvoyance** Information gained about an inanimate object or event without the use of the five senses.
- Modern Miracle Argument (MMA)** The argument, based on Hume's miracle argument, that because we know men cheat and lie and can be self-deluded and we know that psi contravenes severely what is thought possible according to current science, psi phenomena are best explained as products of fraud or self-delusion. Put forward by George Price in 1955 in *Science*.
- ESP** Extrasensory perception, anomalous communication. Commonly divided into three subcategories: telepathy; clairvoyance and time-displaced psi such as precognition and retrocognition.
- Explanation by Fraud Argument (EFA)** The argument that we know people cheat and dissemble, but we don't know there are psi phenomena (in fact psi phenomena are unlikely) therefore fraud is the most rational explanation for psi. Put forward by Keith Campbell in 1970 in *Body and Mind*.
- Historic account** An account of the history of the explanation of psi as once supernatural. Points out that psi is currently considered paranormal because the current limits of science were informed by the modern world view which were in turn influenced by an explanatory scheme that contained both supernatural and scientific explanatory categories. Contemporary mainstream science contains only one, scientific, which is important to understanding the anomalous nature of phenomena such as psi.
- PK** Psychokinesis, anomalous action at a distance.  
The causal influence of an organism on the physical world without any known physical interaction.

<b>Precognition/retrocognition</b>	Information about a person or event in the past (retrocognition), or future (precognition) without the use of the ordinary five senses.
<b>Pre-emptive Inference to the Best Explanation (PIBE)</b>	An illegitimate Inference to the Best Explanation (IBE) which has been undertaken without attending sufficiently to the examination of the body of body of evidence in question and without compiling the requisite hypotheses with sufficient attention to available plausible theories.
<b>Pro-psi proponent</b>	A psi researcher who maintains that the evidence for psi is indicative of an anomalous phenomena and should be explained by developing new theories.
<b>Psi</b>	A general umbrella term for anomalous phenomena associated with either anomalous communication (ESP) or anomalous action at a distance (PK). Coined in 1942 by B.P. Wisner and R.H. Thouless. Psi can be used as either a noun or adjective. It is the 23 letter of the Greek alphabet
<b>Psi commentator</b>	A journalist or author who comments on psi, usually in the mainstream press.
<b>Psi researcher</b>	A professional who undertakes research into psi.
<b>Skeptic hypothesis</b>	Psi is best explained by fraud, flukes of chance or flaky experimental methodology.
<b>Small Change Natural hypothesis (SCN)</b>	Psi phenomena are genuinely anomalous and best explained by using or extending current scientific theory.
<b>Supernatural hypothesis</b>	Psi is best explained with by ascribing the phenomena to a God, Gods, demon, spirit or other divine entity.
<b>Telepathy</b>	Information gained about another mind or minds without the use of the ordinary five senses.