

# FMS1204S: Fraud, deception and data

Week 12

# Group 1

Polidoro (2011), I was a teenage psychic, Skeptical Inquirer, Vol 35.3.

- ▶ There are often paranormal claims in the media.
- ▶ Some media even made documentary on them.
- ▶ What is a scientific view of them? What claim has been proved or disproved?

## Group 2

Polidoro (2011), Magic or miracle? , Skeptical Inquirer, Vol 35.2.

- ▶ What did the psychic do on TV? What happened later?  
How and why?
- ▶ What is project alpha?
- ▶ How did "miracle" happen?

## Group 3

Kolata (1990), 1-in-a-trillion coincidence, you say? Not really, expert find. New York Times, February 27, 1990.

- ▶ What is the major problem?
- ▶ How was the problem solved?

## Group 4

Blackmore (2001), Why I have given up, *Skeptical Odysseys: Personal Accounts by the World's leading Paranormal Inquirers*, P. Kurtz (Ed), Amherst, New York, Prometheus Books, 85-94.

- ▶ Why is Susan Blackmore considered as one of the world's leading paranormal inquirers? You might want to check out [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan\\_Blackmore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Blackmore)
- ▶ What are Susan's experiences and her explanations? How did her view change over time?

## Group 5

Pratkanis (1995). How to sell a pseudoscience. *Skeptical Inquirer*, Vol 19, No. 4, 19-25.

- ▶ What are the tricks to sell a pseudoscience?
- ▶ Have you (or your friends/relatives) ever fallen for any of these tricks? If time allows, discuss with your group mates and class mates.