

Margaret L Anderson

Margaret L Anderson (1920–1986) was a parapsychologist and professor of education at the University of Pittsburgh. She worked with Rhea White on testing children for ESP.

Life and Career

Margaret L Anderson was born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1940 she became a teacher and high school principal. She joined the American Red Cross and served in France and Germany during World War II. She then returned to teaching, obtaining a PhD from the University of Pittsburgh.

Parapsychology

Anderson became interested in the possibility that 'psi may play a direct role in the educational process as mediated by the teacher-pupil relationship'.¹ To investigate this, she obtained a position at the Duke University Parapsychology Laboratory in 1954; there she worked with Rhea White in what became known as the 'Anderson-White' school experiments. The pair discovered that the extent of ESP displayed was affected by the positive or negative emotional relationship with the teacher administering the test.² However, other researchers failed to confirm the effect.³

In 1961 Anderson was the joint-winner with RA McConnell of the prestigious McDougall Award for their ESP research, which was published in the *Journal of Psychology* in the same year.⁴

Anderson was a member of the [Parapsychological Association](#), serving as its treasurer and as president in 1962.

Selected Articles

Teacher-pupil attitudes and clairvoyance test results (1956, with R. White). *Journal of Parapsychology* 20, 141-57.

Clairvoyance and teacher-pupil attitudes in fifth and sixth grades (1957). *Journal of Parapsychology* 21, 1-12.

A further investigation of teacher-pupil attitudes and clairvoyance tests results (1957, with R. White). *Journal of Parapsychology* 21/2, 81-97.

The relationship between changes in student attitude and ESP scoring (1958, with R. White). *Journal of Parapsychology* 23, 149-77.

A survey of work on ESP and teacher-pupil attitudes (1958, with R. White). *Journal of Parapsychology* 22/4, 246-68.

A precognition experiment comparing time intervals of a few days and one year (1959). *Journal of Parapsychology* 23, 81-89.

A two-year programme of tests for clairvoyance and precognition with a class of public school pupils (1959, with E. Gregory). *Journal of Parapsychology* 23, 149-77.

Fantasy testing for ESP in a fourth and fifth grade class (1961, with R.A. McConnell). *Journal of Psychology* 52, 491-503.

The use of fantasy in testing for extrasensory perception (1966). *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research* 60, 150.

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Literature

Anderson, M.L., & McConnell, R.A. (1961). Fantasy testing for ESP in a fourth and fifth grade class. *Journal of Psychology* 52, 491-503.

Anderson, M.L., & White, R. (1957). A further investigation of teacher-pupil attitudes and clairvoyance tests results. *Journal of Parapsychology* 21/2, 81-97.

Osis, K. (1987). A tribute to Margaret L. Anderson 1920-1985 [sic]. *Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research* 81, 257-60.

Rhine, J.B. (1977). History of experimental studies in *Handbook of Parapsychology*, ed. by B.B. Wolman. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company.

White, R. (1987). Tribute to an experimenter: Margaret L. Anderson. *Journal of Parapsychology* 51/2, 111-16.

Endnotes

Footnotes

- [1.](#) White (1987), 111.
- [2.](#) Anderson & White (1957), 81-97.
- [3.](#) Rhine (1977), 43.
- [4.](#) Anderson & McConnell (1961), 491-503.