

Review of: "Signatures in mediumnic automatic writing - a pilot exploration of the resemblance with the deceased's handwriting"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper is well written and represents an interesting study. Unfortunately, the data studied and the methods used do not support the author's conclusion that "the signatures produced by psychography were surprisingly similar to those that the deceased produced in life and that "There seems to be no materialist explanation based on fraud or coincidence that would stand up to closer scrutiny".

There are various arguments for this, but the two most important ones are:

1. The small number of cases (only 4)
2. The fact that all handwritings look very similar anyway
3. The lack of a systematic algorithm to quantify the similarity of the handwritings in an objective and reproducible manner.

The claims by the authors that mundane explanations must be refuted cannot be taken seriously with the data presented. The only conclusion the authors can make at this point is that there may be a similarity in handwritings and that more research is needed.

I would be looking forward to a more extensive study with a considerably larger number of cases and a more systematic and objective approach to judge similarity between handwritings.