

Project:	Number:
Lead Researcher:	Date:
Validator 1:	Area: <i>ESP PK SH EC</i>
Validator 2:	Conclusion: <i>Ev Kn Pr Me Em Th Po</i>
General Conditions:	

## 1-PURPOSE

The existence of any research can be attributed to one of the seven research gaps. The goal of the research is to investigate any problem, phenomenon or scientific question to reduce the gap. The first step in any research is to systematically identify the research gaps as basis for the investigation. Sadly, this step is usually not taught to young researchers. Here, based on the referred literature, we define the research gap areas and show steps to proceed within them and write a research gap analysis.

## 2-ACADEMIC TAXONOMY OF RESEARCH GAPS (Miles, 2027)

<b>Ev</b> Evidence Gap <i>(Contradictory Evidence Gap)</i>	It involves contradictions in the findings of the prior research. We need to analyze each previous research stream. <i>Goal: to synthesize the analyses and reveal contradictory evidence.</i>
<b>Kn</b> Knowledge Gap <i>(Knowledge Void Gap)</i>	When the desired research findings (or theories, literature) do not exist in the actual field. <i>Goal: to generate knowledge, theory and enrich literature.</i>
<b>Pr</b> Practical-Knowledge Gap <i>(Action-Knowledge Conflict Gap)</i>	When professional behavior or practices deviate from research findings or are not covered by research. This discrepancy motivates new research in this direction. <i>Goal: determine the scope of the conflict and uncover the reasons for its existence.</i>
<b>Me</b> Methodological Gap <i>(Method and Research Design Gap)</i>	When a variation of research methods is necessary to generate new insights or to avoid distorted finding. <i>Goal: to find new innovative research methods especially if previously a singular or common method was used in this area.</i>
<b>Em</b> Empirical Gap <i>(Evaluation Void Gap)</i>	When research findings or propositions need to be evaluated or empirically verified. <i>Goal: to verify if it stands the test of time (outside of the lab).</i>
<b>Th</b> Theoretical Gap <i>(Theory Application Void Gap)</i>	Theory should be applied to certain research issues to generate new insights. There is lack of theory thus a gap exists. <i>Goal: to examine prior research on a phenomenon to solve theoretical conflicts.</i>
<b>Po</b> Population Gap	When research regarding the population that is not adequately represented or under-researched in the evidence base or prior research (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, age and etc) <i>Goal: find and research that population.</i>

### 3-EXAMPLE WRITE UPS

#### Ev

The researcher identified an apparent **evidence gap** in the prior research concerning \_\_\_\_\_. Previous research has addressed several aspects of \_\_\_\_\_: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (cite two to three relevant articles), (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (cite two to three relevant articles), and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (cite two to three relevant articles). However, the previous research has not addressed several contradictions in the findings concerning the prior research. The researcher has identified there is an evidence gap in the prior studies that are contradictory in the findings.

#### Kn

The researcher identified an apparent **knowledge gap** in the prior research concerning \_\_\_\_\_. In addition, the prior research did not address the subject of \_\_\_\_\_. This encompasses several unexplored dimensions that lately have attracted research attention in other disciplines (cite two to three relevant articles). The \_\_\_\_\_ should be explored further to provide an understanding as to why such is not the case with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Pr

There appears to be a **practical knowledge gap** in the prior research. There is a lack of rigorous research in the prior literature. Some of these unexplored \_\_\_\_\_ appear to be lacking in the practice of \_\_\_\_\_ field. The field of \_\_\_\_\_ is ripe for an investigation of practical focus research on \_\_\_\_\_. Many of the prior studies focus on the theoretical aspects of the field of \_\_\_\_\_. However, there are very few practical studies or action research in the field of \_\_\_\_\_. This is an important and worthy of investigation in the context of \_\_\_\_\_. An investigation of these issues is important because \_\_\_\_\_. Furthermore, previous theoretical research has focused primarily on \_\_\_\_\_ and very little practical research has been done on \_\_\_\_\_ field.

#### Me

The researcher identified a **methodological gap** in the prior research. There is a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ research designs in \_\_\_\_\_. Based on the research we are trying implement as a research design, we found there is dearth in the prior research on \_\_\_\_\_ research designs. In this study we seek to establish a new inquiry on research designs with \_\_\_\_\_. We seek to extend \_\_\_\_\_ the research by addressing the gaps with \_\_\_\_\_ in the research methodologies with \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Em

There appears to be an **empirical gap** in the prior research. There is a lack of rigorous research in the prior literature. Some of these unexplored \_\_\_\_\_ appear to be important and worthy investigation in the context of \_\_\_\_\_. An empirical investigation of these issues is important because \_\_\_\_\_. Furthermore, previous research has focused primarily on qualitative research concerning \_\_\_\_\_. No study to date has directly attempted to empirically evaluate \_\_\_\_\_. Very little empirical research has been done on \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Th

The researcher identified an apparent **theoretical gap** in the prior research concerning \_\_\_\_\_. The theory on \_\_\_\_\_ is rather dated and the current studies bear the fruit of this theoretical gap. Some of the prior theories appear to be important and a foundation worthy of recognition. However, an investigation in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ and theoretical development is warranted. An investigation of these issues is important because \_\_\_\_\_. Furthermore, previous theoretical models need to embrace contemporary research in \_\_\_\_\_ and related fields provide a stronger theoretical basis for projects. The previous theory tends to focus primarily on \_\_\_\_\_. It does not encompass new paradigms in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Po**

Based on the review of the prior research, there is a **population gap**. Some of these sub-populations have been unexplored and under-researched. The \_\_\_\_\_ appears to be important and worthy of investigation in the context of \_\_\_\_\_. An investigation of this group is important because \_\_\_\_\_. Furthermore, previous research has focused primarily on this population of \_\_\_\_\_. Very little research has been done on \_\_\_\_\_.

**4-RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

There are three main steps in writing a research proposal. Firstly, we need to highlight (and cite 2-3 relevant articles) some of the prior research in the literature that does not address the particular focus of the research. This is where we find gaps. Secondly, we need to define why additional research is relevant and important and how it can help reduce the gap (and mention what the previous research was focusing on and was not focusing on). Thirdly, we need to provide a consistent statement about how our new research and its findings can contribute to the area in question. This statement must follow logically from the previous two steps: the identified gap and the importance of reducing the controversies in the field.

**5-AN HSPRC EXAMPLE**

By widely reviewing prior research and literature related to providing emotional support for young children having non-pathological anomalous experiences (*such as seeing apparitions /i.e., "ghosts"/, having out of body experiences, having the experience to be able to recall memories from previous life, obtaining information via precognition or experiencing mind over matter anomalies /i.e.PK/ and similar phenomena*), our team at HSPRC identified two major research gaps.

First, we identified an apparent **population gap** in the prior research concerning providing clinical and counseling support for young children related to their non-pathological anomalous experiences. The previous research has addressed several aspects of this practice: (1) Some years ago researchers (Sass, Pienkos, Skodlar, Stanghellini, Fuchs, Parnas, 2017; Silverstein, Demmin, Skodlart, 2017) introduced the *EAVE* tool but it focuses only on the adult population and (2) to measure paranormal beliefs the *RPBS* tool was developed (Tobacyk, 2004; Houran, Irwin, Lange, 2001) to measure the aspects to these experiences but it was designed and tested related to adult population.

Second, based on the review of prior research there is a **methodological gap**. The gap is related to the intervention. Previous approaches and interventions concentrated on the pathological (Shauaib et. Al 2011; Friedel 2025, Gómez, Freyd 2017) and therapeutical aspects (Nishiura et al. 2024; Hirakata 2009) of such phenomena experienced by young children, hence maintaining an approach coming from Abnormal Child Psychology, Child Neurology and Child Psychiatry.

Very little research has been done on both (1) developing techniques to explore children's phenomenology having non-pathological anomalous experiences (such as structured interview, survey, test or projective devices) that can help properly evaluating them; and (2) providing them with formal and standard interventions (including crisis intervention, acute treatment or parent education support).

By better understanding the phenomenology of having a non-pathological anomalous experience as a child, the already available coping strategies related to them, the available supporting environment and the effects of these, we could better define future research areas and design, develop, and share tools with the audience affected (children, caregivers, professional helpers).

In this study we seek to explore these areas with an involvement of a focus group. Our research therefore investigates (1) the prevalence of the non-pathological anomalous experience in children; (2) the phenomenology of these experiences both in child and parent; (3) the available and applied coping strategies and social support and (4) the impact of the applied coping strategies as outcome.

We hypothesize that (1) while the prevalence of these experiences in the defined population exists, its prevalence is low; (2) the phenomenology of the child, the parent and the interaction of the two directly impact the effectiveness of the coping in the situation; (3) the presence and application of coping strategies have an effect both on the phenomenology and the outcome of the challenge.

## RESOURCES:

- 1-Miles, D. (2017). ARTICLE: "Research Methods and Strategies Workshop: A Taxonomy of Research Gaps: Identifying and Defining the Seven Research Gaps". 1. 1.
- 2-Robinson, Karen & Saldanha, Ian & McKoy, Naomi. (2011). Development of a framework to identify research gaps from systematic reviews. *Journal of clinical epidemiology*. 64. 1325-30. 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2011.06.009.
- 3-Mueller-Bloch, Christoph & Kranz, Johann. (2015). A Framework for Rigorously Identifying Research Gaps in Qualitative Literature Reviews.
- 4-Baako, I.; Alhassan, H.; Gidisu, P. (2022): Understanding and Spotting Research Gaps Through a Systematic Literature Review. In: *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS)* |Volume VI, Issue III, March 2022|ISSN 2454-6186
- 5-Balazs, P. (2025): RGA. Research Gap Analysis. An Aid for Parapsychology. In: *JHSPRC*, Vol 2, Autumn 2025, pp. 12-16.