

Teacher Expectations

Education

The Pygmalion finding, what replication did to it, and what still stands.

The claim that a teacher's expectation of a pupil influences that pupil's attainment through differences in how they are taught and treated.

ORIGINAL CLAIM
large

CURRENT ESTIMATE
small, contested

- Rosenthal and Jacobson, 1968, reported large effects.
- The original study has been heavily criticised.
- Later work finds real but small average effects.
- Effects are larger for stigmatised groups.
- Expectations are often accurate, not merely imposed.
- The behavioural route is what teachers can change.

LOOK FOR IT

Differences show in observable behaviour: who is asked harder questions, who gets wait time, who is asked to justify an answer.

Educational reference. Contested in size. Treat the behaviours as the target, since they are visible and changeable, and the belief is not.