



Supporting information: Systematic review methods for obtaining empirical studies on magic and wellbeing

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1. Scope

The scope of this literature review explored the use of magic to enhance wellbeing. The inclusion criteria were that publications had to be empirical studies, with a clear quantitative or qualitative measurement. Measurements could include any type of positive or negative affect measure, mental health outcomes, cognitive functioning, or physical and medical health outcomes. Titles that clearly involved magic tricks, as in what magicians perform, were considered valid for inclusion. If the title mentioned something that could be related to performance magic, the abstract and article were examined to clarify. Excluded publications were ones that reported purely anecdotal evidence, commentaries, opinion pieces, or magazine articles.

2. Database Selection

Google Scholar and University of Derby's Library Plus database were employed as primary platforms for searches and selection. The Library Plus database encompasses all 231 databases in the University of Derby catalogue

3. Library Plus search strategy

The term "magic tricks," attached to a second search term by the "AND" operator, was searched in Library Plus, and filtered to only include academic journals. Second search terms included: "therapy," "therapeutic," "psychiatry," "psychiatric," "well being," "happiness," "positive emotions," "motivation," "creative," "creativity," "curiosity," "imagination," or "imaginative." Each term was separately entered into a new search for a total of 12 searches.

4. Prospective and retrospective search strategy

The basis of the literature review also stems from the magic therapy subsection of the article by Kuhn & Rensink (2015) because it contained the most relevant magic and wellbeing studies known to the researchers at the time. All references within the magic therapy subsection were individually populated into a Google Scholar search. Next, the "cited by" button was used to generate a list of articles citing the reference. The resulting list, in conjunction with references cited in the initial article, was condensed using the inclusion and exclusion criteria previously mentioned. Any articles that were related to performance magic were also used to further



generate lists of references by repeating this process until no further articles were found. This search strategy was initially conducted during August 2016 and updated in June 2017 as more articles were published.

5. Review findings

The review resulted in a total of 14 new papers that ultimately met inclusion criteria. The Library Plus searches resulted in a cumulative total of 64 hits, with four articles meeting inclusion criteria (Figure S1). The retrospective and prospective search strategy yielded 48 references related to performance magic, and 10 met inclusion criteria (Figure S2). The final collection of results, along with the initial empirical references from Kuhn & Rensink (2015) that met inclusion criteria are presented in Table 1 of the main text.

Figure S1. Consort diagram for the Library Plus search strategy. Some excluded articles met multiple exclusion criteria.

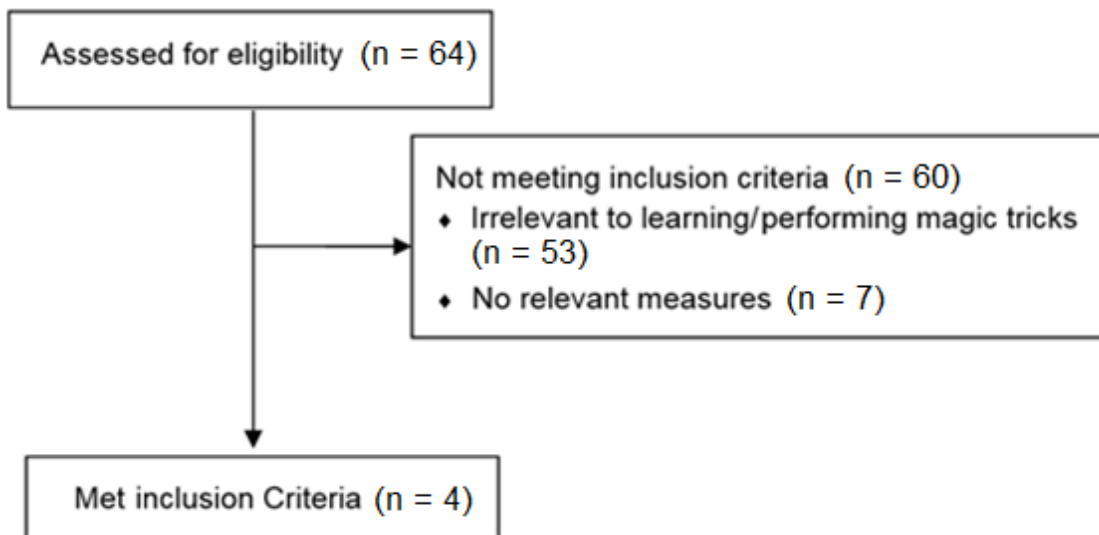




Figure S2. Flowchart for prospective and retrospective search strategy. Arrows indicate whether the preceding citation referenced or was cited by the latter citation. Circled citations indicate studies that met inclusion criteria for final results.

