Dear Whately Carlington,

I am sorry you feel bothered about your work, though from what you say in the body of the letter I think you are worrying yourself unduly, for the situation you suggest is simply that, while you agree in principle with Thouless's suggested method of test, you think it is unduly insensitive and might obscure an effect which is really there.

This is a common enough position in research, and really ought not to worry you. I wonder if you have considered that if you take out the individual scores for each percipient separately, you might reasonably make a $t$-test between men and women, giving all percipients equal weight or, if the added precision seems worth the labour, giving them empirical weights based on the number of tests they have taken part in. This would get rid of the "positive-or-negative" signs test, which as you say does sometimes look a bit insensitive.

Yours sincerely,