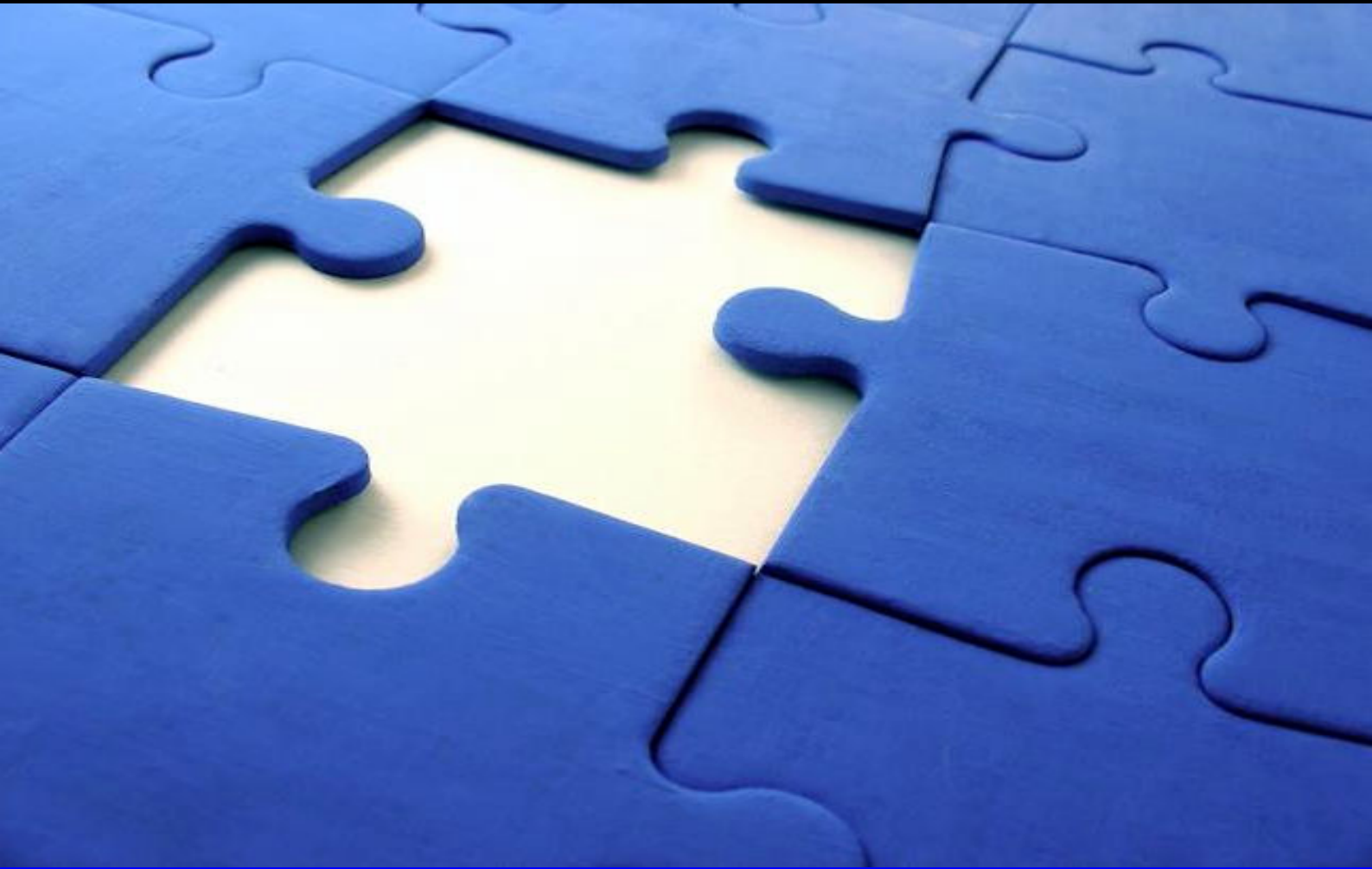


**paranormal site investigators**



**PSI Journal of  
Investigative Psychological  
Research**

**Volume 4, Number 2, August 2008**

**Contents include:**

- Corner of the Eye Phenomena
- An Irreplaceable Loss
- Article – Signals from the Void
- Article – A New Investigation Methodology
- Book reviews: Dead Haunted, Six Feet Over

**PSY**

# Journal Information

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The PSI Journal of Investigative Psychical Research is published twice per year and is made available, electronically, to members of Paranormal Site Investigators for no charge. The Journal is the only known UK journal specialising in haunting phenomena and paranormal investigation process. The primary objective of the Journal is to present field-oriented articles about paranormal investigation techniques, and to represent current-thinking research in the field.

The Journal is published through Paranormal Site Investigators, rather than through an academic institution. Journal articles are not always scholarly in nature, in recognition of its stated objective to be accessible to the public and lay paranormal investigators as well as to the research community.

The Journal is peer-reviewed in-house and is striving to build an external peer-review system.

Investigation reports are published where Paranormal Site Investigators has assessed ethical issues and granted approval, and where investigation venue owners have consented. All participants of research and investigations have been protected by use of pseudonyms.

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# A Three-Year Paranormal Investigation Method: Overview of Findings

As many of you will know, PSI adopted a highly standardised method for investigating the paranormal for some years. Specifically, for three years between 2005 and 2008 some twenty-one investigations were conducted using a standardised and rigorous method. Specifically standardised times, group formations, equipment, experimental methods and reporting techniques were used. These produced reports for each investigation in the region of 20,000 to 25,000 words.

Although this method was not geared towards an 'entertaining evening' and every member of the investigation team – and support team outside of it – spent a great many hours every month to produce these results, we should now see the fruits of our labours paying off.

The main advantage of this standardised method was that it now allows us to draw meaningful conclusion over time. The trouble with investigating the paranormal, as a concept, is that at best one is left with a string of anecdotes. The hazy recollection of 'significant' equipment readings, isolated photographs and video clips and the memory of experiences might provide a great deal of personal interest, but – especially where poor probabilistic reasoning dogs the conclusions of much paranormal research – it can never be very meaningful to the wider world.

We are now in the position to employ the power of statistics to analyse the very way paranormal investigations are conducted and, crucially, discover whether the findings of the modern paranormal investigator are nothing but fluke.

Specifically our research programme is calling for a great deal of work in the following areas, which will be reported in the next edition of the PSI Journal:

- EVP, ITC and Trigger Objects. With techniques adopted to rule out poor methods, were any compelling instances evident? Are these useful methods?
- Ganzfeld procedure. How did this state affect the way people experience? Is this a useful method for enhancing experience?
- Did situations like seances and 'calling out' prime the way we experience? Were any results simply the result of fluke, when considered over time?
- Feelings at the moment. Did the mood of investigators contribute to, or detract from, experiences over time? What is the reason?

- Paranormal belief. Does the belief of investigators vary over time, if so then why? Over a large number of trials, does paranormal belief affect the nature and number of 'reports' made?
- Context. Can the role of environmental context explain why people report experiences at different rates? Was this consistent with how 'haunted' each room was 'meant' to be?
- Photography. How many investigation photographs were anomalous? Did this change in 'active areas'? What were the causes of anomalous images? Did any photographs defy rational explanation?
- Equipment. Did environmental equipment fluctuations coincide with paranormal experiences? Was this meaningful or the result of chance? Did equipment support any popular paranormal theories? Are they useful at all? Did equipment readings have an impact on reporting rates?
- Phenomena. Did repeat visits to a location alter the nature of experiences? What are the most prevalent types of investigation 'experience' and why?

We already know the answer to many of these questions, but still need to prepare the results for you, the membership.

We already know enough to have completely revised the way we investigate allegedly paranormal phenomena. See the Investigation Methodology page in this edition of the PSI Journal to find out how we put our conclusions into practice.

**Dave Wood, Paranormal Site Investigators**

# Corner of the Eye Phenomena

## A ghostly pigeon

Recently, I was eating alfresco, at a table on the pavement outside a restaurant. It was getting dark but there was still enough daylight to see everything perfectly. Suddenly, something caught my attention in the 'corner of my eye', under the table. It was a black and white pigeon walking between my feet! I was surprised! I hadn't thought a bird would be bold enough to walk between someone's feet! So, I looked under the table to see where it had gone but there was nothing there!

Puzzled, I decided to investigate the sighting. The first thing that struck me was that, in the gathering gloom, there were no other birds about, though there had been several earlier. Presumably, they had all decided it was time to roost. I then noticed that my feet were only a couple of centimetres apart - far too small a gap to allow a bird as big as a pigeon to get through. It was, by now, obvious that I had not seen a pigeon at all!

Intrigued, I watched my feet for a while and then saw 'it' again. The 'thing' was not a pigeon at all but a fast moving pattern of light. Caused by passing car headlights, it gave the impression of an object passing between my feet.

It was clearly a case of misperception, but why of a pigeon? Expectation could explain it. Having seen pigeons moving around between the tables earlier, my mind had obviously just 'decided' it was one. What surprised me was how vividly I 'saw' the ghostly pigeon. It was so utterly real at the time that I accepted it without question. I was reminded of the many times I'd heard ghost witnesses say that what they'd seen was completely solid and real. It shocked me just how vivid a misperception could be! If you'd asked me at the time what I'd seen, I would have said, without hesitation or doubt, a pigeon!

## Corner of the eye phenomena

Paranormal reports sometimes include a mention of things seen in the 'corner of the eye', occasionally as part of a wider haunting. Typically, the phenomena are fleeting and generally vanish if witnesses turn to look straight at them. They are often reported to look like shadows, sometimes resembling faces or whole human figures. For this reason they are often called 'shadow ghosts' or 'shadow people'. Some people think they represent a kind of 'entity', distinct from ghosts.

## How vision works

Before we can consider whether such 'corner of

the eye' phenomena might be paranormal, we need to understand a little about how our vision works. Vision is our most information-rich sense which tends to override the other senses when we are deciding what is real and what is not. The act of seeing, however, is overwhelmingly something that the brain does, rather than the eyes.

We see 'reality' as a widescreen 'picture in our head' showing what is in front of our eyes. It appears to be a highly detailed view of the world, with objects looking vaguer towards the periphery. In fact, the area where we have a clear really detailed view of anything is surprisingly small. To demonstrate this, stare at one word in the middle of this paragraph. Without changing where you are staring, how many words can you read on either side, above or below? The answer is, surprisingly few!

We can only see in great detail by using a relatively small area of our retina, densely filled with 'cone' cells, called the fovea. We constantly move our eyes about rapidly, without noticing it, to point the fovea at different areas of the view ahead. These rapid eye movements are called saccades. During a saccade, the fovea 'fixates' on a small area of our field of view while passing information to the brain. During the actual eye movements, little or no information goes to the brain. We generally perform about three saccades a second, each lasting 20 to 200 microseconds. For the remaining time, we are fixating on a relatively small area of the scene ahead.

The 'picture in our head' is built up, by our brains, from these fixations (along with peripheral vision). This inevitably means that most bits of the 'picture' are always slightly out of date, using the brain's memory. Things we cannot see well, in peripheral vision for instance, may actually sometimes be 'substituted' by our brains with visual memories of similar things we've seen sometime in the past! It is as if our brains hate to have an incomplete or indistinct view of the world, so they will insert similar objects from our memory where necessary. All this happens before we are consciously aware of what we're seeing, so we automatically accept it as completely real. This explains how I 'saw' a pigeon when, in fact, it was just passing car headlights! The 'pigeon' was a substitution made by my brain, without my conscious knowledge, which is why I automatically thought it was real.

## Peripheral vision

Away from the detailed central area of the 'picture in our head', our peripheral vision is vague, with a much lower resolution. Peripheral vision is produced largely by retinal 'rod' cells. Unlike the cone cells that produce the central detailed views, rods have poor spatial resolution.

Rods are more sensitive to light and movement than cones but cannot see colour (which is why my 'pigeon' was black and white!). The reason their resolution is lower than cones is that multiple rod cells converge into a single interneuron cell, unlike cones. It is like merging several pixels into one on a TV picture. It does, however, improve their sensitivity to movement compared to cones. This poor resolution and high sensitivity to movement is what causes everyday 'corner of the eye' experiences, where you are vaguely aware of something in your peripheral vision, especially if it moves or changes, but you cannot make it out properly.

If you turn to look at an object seen in the 'corner of your eye', you will see it in much greater detail and in colour, given sufficient illumination. As a consequence, it will often look completely different. What was a vague dark shadow in the 'corner of your eye' will often turn into a differently shaped object in full colour. Sometimes the difference will be so pronounced that the original 'object' may appear to vanish! Indeed, the 'object' in peripheral vision may have been a brain 'substitution' from your memory. Naturally, any 'substitute' object (which never existed outside your brain) will 'vanish' when you turn to look directly towards it. Shadow ghosts are often reported to do this!

Due to the in-built human propensity to see faces and figures in random shapes, it is inevitable that some corner-of-the-eye phenomena include such shapes. Once we turn to look at the shapes properly, they will no longer make sense as figures or faces. Our brains will then 'rationalise' that the face or 'shadow ghost' has vanished!

### Shadow ghosts

There are occasional reports of shadow ghosts being seen when looking straight ahead. One possible natural explanation for this is that they are actual shadows, particularly in low light (see below) conditions, that resemble human figures. If people are convinced that they are living in a haunted house, they may be highly sensitised to this idea by psychological suggestion.

### Night vision

In low light, our retinal cone cells do not work and we rely solely on our rods. This means that our visual acuity falls significantly compared to normal daylight vision. One major problem, for instance, is that rods need time to adapt to reach maximum sensitivity in low light (some 30-45 minutes are required to reach 80% of full sensitivity). Even once you have adapted to night vision, there are other issues to consider:

- poor spatial resolution – poorly seen objects may be 'substituted from memory' by our brains, even when seen in the central area of vision

- shadows or white lights
- there is a shift in light sensitivity towards the blue end of the spectrum (the Purkinje Effect)\*
- autokinesis - small stationary objects appear to move if you stare at them for a while
- night blind spot – your best eyesight resolution is 15 - 20 degrees off centre\*\*
- poor depth perception

*\*this makes different coloured objects more or less prominent than in daylight, so the scene can appear changed*

*\*\*because central vision is dominated by the cone-rich fovea which doesn't work in low light*

These perception limitations may explain many apparent paranormal phenomena seen in low-light.

### Low light misperception

The various visual impairments brought about by low light conditions, coupled with psychological suggestion, can seriously compromise vigils held in the dark. Holding a dark vigil in an allegedly haunted building is almost bound to produce many spurious reports of paranormal phenomena.

One major problem, that is little recognised, is the night blind spot. It means that objects seen straight ahead look fuzzy compared with those seen at a slight angle (15 - 20 degrees off centre). In daylight, we see objects straight ahead best, so there is a habitual tendency to look the same way at night. It means, however, that objects may be more easily misperceived by staring directly towards them! This fact alone may account for many reports of ghosts in low light conditions.

Small moving lights are quite frequently reported on vigils. The lights could be produced by LED indicators, for instruments or domestic appliances, or from light thrown on walls from gaps in curtains or under doors. Whatever causes such lights, if you stare at them in the dark, after a while they will usually appear to move! This autokinesis may be responsible for reports where people claim to have seen 'orbs' with the naked eye.

Finally, the lengthy time required by eyes to adapt to low light means that, for long periods, people may see very little at all. Such 'sensory deprivation' can sometimes lead to hallucinations.

Unfortunately, these adverse factors combine in a dark vigil. In typical vigils, divided up into several 'dark' sessions separated by well-lit breaks, night vision adaptation times are a real problem. For much of the time investigators will not be able to see anything much, even when it is something there to be seen. For these reasons, dark vigils are of limited value for scientific evidence, unless investigating reports of phenomena experienced in similar very low light circumstances.

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## Article: An Irreplaceable Loss

### An Irreplaceable Loss: The Life and Death of A Poltergeist Agent

Barry Taff, Ph.D.

True love comes in many forms and occasionally requires us to embark on a very strange, fascinating and unexpected journey through a landscape seldom experienced by others, whose final destination is beyond our comprehension. My friend and colleague, Barry Conrad, took just such an unimaginable trek.

Over the last thirty-seven years as a parapsychologist, having lived through cases like *The Entity*, Hollymont and San Pedro (*An Unknown Encounter*) which made up an infinitesimal fraction of my files, I was left with way too many sleepless nights, falsely believing that I'd seen, heard and felt it all. Jaded into complacency, I was sure that nothing could ever really move me again. To put it simply, I was wrong, dead wrong. There was no inkling that I was on the verge of perhaps the most incredible case of my career, one that would affect virtually every single person I shared my work with.

Early Tuesday morning July 25<sup>th</sup> 2006, the world lost a very unique and uncommon woman; an articulate woman, possessing incredible intelligence, emotional grounding as well as beauty. However, to film-maker Barry Conrad, the loss of his soul-mate, Lisa McIntosh to cancer, goes well beyond just another human being who has left the land of the living in which the rest of us still reside.

Lisa and Barry met in, what for most, is the least likely to produce a productive and enduring relationship...the Internet. They shared many aspects of life; similar ethnicities, very similar family structures and perhaps what was most important for them, a never-ending interest in the paranormal.

Although the North Carolina native Lisa McIntosh was only forty-two years old when she died, she had dedicated most of her short life to the study of paranormal phenomena. Lisa's interests covered a broad spectrum of phenomena, everything from remote viewing to Ufology.

What was not initially known by Barry or myself was that Lisa was far more than just another pretty face whose interests were somewhat askew from the mainstream.

In fact, shortly after meeting Lisa in spring of 2001, she spoke of moving from one haunted house to another as she grew up. As the very notion of such is literally an astronomical probability, it strongly suggested that Lisa herself was possibly a poltergeist agent.

A poltergeist agent is defined as an individual, anywhere from pre-pubescence or adolescence into adulthood, who is plagued with varying degrees of psychokinetic [PK] (mind-over-matter) outbreaks. At the dawn of psychical research in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was believed that these phenomena were the result of noisy, prank-playing spirits attached or attracted to an individual, which is what the German word "poltergeist" means. However, evidence collected by parapsychologists over the last 124 years strongly suggests that these incredible displays of psychokinesis have very little to do with discarnate intelligence (dead people's spirits), but everything to do with unusual neuro-chemical brain functions.

In point of fact, since Lisa moved into Barry's house in the summer of 2001, there have been more than 57 separate days of poltergeist events (individual events themselves came to 146, which averages out to 12.5 individual events per day over the course of 5 years) ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. So pronounced and dramatic were these incidents that if I myself had not been present to experience many of these extraordinary episodes I would be hard-pressed to believe them. That's how spectacular some of these outbreaks were.

It all began on October 13, 2001 the day after Lisa, Conrad and myself went out to Calabasas to investigate an alleged haunting. However, before we delve into the specific details of the psychokinetic maelstrom that surrounded Lisa McIntosh, several other background essentials must be described so a proper perspective is possible.

Barry Conrad moved into his current home in the Glendale/La Crescenta area during the January of 1997. While Conrad has experienced poltergeist outbreaks in his previous home in Studio City, California back in 1989-90, they *only* occurred *after* Jackie Hernandez, the poltergeist agent associated with the San Pedro case *An Unknown Encounter*, had visited his apartment. Other than these specific incidents related to this particular case, Conrad's life had been totally free of such occurrences. Until Lisa moved in, that is.

Long before the PK volleys began, Conrad shared some fascinating photographs he had taken of Lisa with me.

These photos depicted curious luminous anomalies surrounding Lisa, which were bright pink or orange in color. While I thought these images were interesting at the time, I didn't really give the matter any further thought, that is, until other phenomena began displaying themselves around Lisa.

This case is perhaps one of the most perplexing in my files (which now exceed 4,300 cases) in that there were such a high volume of incidents, many of which had multiple witnesses, including myself. Yet, once Lisa became very ill while on location with Barry in Point Pleasant, West Virginia shooting a segment on the "Mothman" for "Monsters of the UFO" and was later diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in late December of 2004, the frequency and magnitude of these psychokinetic events markedly diminished.

For the purpose of this article, we'll assume that the poltergeist outbreaks around Lisa formally began on October 13, 2001, although according to Lisa's own words, her childhood through early adulthood was littered with classic psychokinetic displays.

Barry Conrad asked Lisa to live with him in the early summer of 2001. During that summer, their existence in Conrad's Glendale home was normal, with not even a glimmer of anything paranormal. Looking back I believe that this was the calm before the storm.

After Barry and I went out to investigate our *first* case in which Lisa accompanied us on October 12, 2001, their lives were forever changed as a result. There was nothing particularly noteworthy about this investigation other than marginally higher geomagnetic and low frequency magnetometer readings. The Calabasas, California residents reported the sounds of furniture being moved when it was not. The lid of their washer was torn off by an unseen force and thrown some distance.

Various objects in and around the house had been thrown and broken, doors opened, food moved around, gravel in the backyard thrown into sliding glass windows, toys on the lawn moved, knocking on doors, and file cabinets opened on their own. And let's not forget the old standard of keys appearing and disappearing (apports). However, most of these events happened long ago, or over the span of many years, and only when the family's younger relatives were present did anything like the aforementioned events occur again.

The very next morning, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2001, Lisa was upstairs in the bathroom when her hair dryer suddenly turned itself on. Lisa was curious, but not concerned as she assumed that this incident was nothing more than a malfunctioning appliance.

Several days later on October 15<sup>th</sup> while she was working at the computer, it kept shutting itself down for no apparent reason. Again, Lisa didn't give it a second thought, as PC's (as opposed to Macs) are known to act quirky now and again.

The next event was much more difficult to dismiss as some minor electronic glitch. It was October 17<sup>th</sup> at around 7:30 p.m. when both Lisa and Barry collectively observed a blinding blue-white flash of light in the foyer of the house from no apparent source. Needless to say, this event caused quite a bit of concern on both Lisa and Barry's part. However, there was still insufficient evidence to suggest that they were possibly dealing with poltergeist activity.

Several days later came the first defining event suggesting that Barry and Lisa were, in fact, dealing with a poltergeist outbreak. Around 1 a.m. both Barry and Lisa are upstairs asleep when they are awakened by the explosive sounds of what comes across as heavy furniture crashing to the floor downstairs in the living room. Barry runs downstairs expecting to find his expensive entertainment center destroyed. He finds absolutely nothing within the house that could logically explain this classic type of poltergeist chicanery. He goes back upstairs telling Lisa he found nothing. As they are about to fall back into slumber, the extremely loud crashing sounds once again emanate from the first floor. Barry again runs downstairs, not knowing what to expect. There is nothing to be found. Returning to bed he and Lisa spend a very restless night waiting for further activity, which does not occur.

October 26<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of a substantial escalation in the frequency, magnitude and nature of events to come. Lisa was upstairs getting ready for bed and Barry is out on a late shoot. Just after Lisa decided to put her book away and hit-the-sack, Barry's dog (Beau, given to him by an ex-girlfriend) decided to jump onto the bed. Beau is very jealous of Lisa's taking her place in bed. Not unexpectedly, Lisa was not too fond of Beau as she was a present from Barry's "ex" as well as being very aggressive and territorial.

As Beau jumps up toward the bed, something interrupted her flight mid-jump. Lisa described it as if an invisible wall or pair of large hands abruptly grabbed the dog in the air. The dog was momentarily suspended in mid-air as if it were defying gravity, then violently thrown or repelled backwards slamming into the wall beneath the window across from the foot of the bed.

Beau is momentarily stunned after which she gets up and shakes as if having a seizure, then lets out a loud moan.

The dog then begins to visually “track” something unseen in the bedroom while growling and barking as she hunched down in the corner of the room. The dog quickly runs out of the bedroom. Lisa was almost in shock from the event and immediately calls Barry on his cell who eventually calms her down.

Moving on to November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2001, it was around 2:30 a.m. as Barry and Lisa were asleep upstairs. There is a sudden loud sound within the bedroom. The high decibel sound of cracking wood or, perhaps that of a high-voltage, electrical discharge. The event lasted around 3-4 seconds and appeared to come from right next to the bed. Lisa is terrified and starts to shake and cry. Not surprisingly, just prior to the incident, the dog rapidly dives under the bed as if she anticipated the event.

Four days later on November 5<sup>th</sup>, at around 11:15 a.m. Barry and Lisa are in bed when Lisa repeatedly feels her calf being touched and tapped by icy-cold, invisible fingers. She jumps out of bed terrified. Hours go by before Barry can calm her down.

We now jump to just past Thanksgiving on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November at 1 a.m. While Barry is downstairs watching TV, he hears very loud pounding coming from the ceiling of the living room (3-4 bangs). He said it sounded like a big sledgehammer being slammed into the bedroom floor. When Barry runs upstairs to investigate, he finds Lisa sound asleep. Nothing in the room is out of place.

The very next day, as if to further inflame Lisa's fears, at around 8 p.m. she observes a can of empty dog food that Beau has dragged into the entrance hall move across the carpet into the living room under its own power. Lisa's alone and freezes in her tracks. As funny as this event is, Lisa's home alone having to cope with all of this without Barry.

It's now December 2<sup>nd</sup> and everything seems to have tapered off. However, at 5:20 p.m. when Barry and Lisa are lying in bed, they both hear the sounds of someone or something with great weight coming up the stairs and approach the bedroom door. They both freeze. The room's doorknob turns and the door opens. Paralyzed by fear, they both wait for whatever it is to enter the room and reveal itself. Then silence. Summoning all his courage, Barry goes to the door and finds nothing. This incident sounds as if it came right out of a scene of Robert Wise's *The Haunting* (1963).

Beyond the obvious cliché poltergeist nature of this incident is that fact that just prior to it, both Barry and Lisa felt a strong sense of “overpressure” around their heads giving them both headaches.

The best way to describe this effect is what one feels when diving in a deep pool or scuba diving. This type of physical effect has been the most common physiological reaction to numerous “haunted” environments over the last 37 years, shared by both investigators and residents. However, there does not appear to be a barometric correlation to this sensation.

Jumping forward in time one-half month to December 16<sup>th</sup>, this author was sitting in one of the comfortable lounge chairs in Barry's living room at approximately 10:45 p.m. with Barry and Lisa watching videos when my chair was violently struck, twice, by an invisible force that felt as if a baseball bat had been used. My response was simple and direct. I jumped up and out of the chair immediately. Four decades of this work may have somewhat jaded and battle-hardened me, but I am human and do possess a fight or flight reaction, which was certainly forced into action here.

The very next day, the 17<sup>th</sup> of December also provided a new level of physical intensity related to the PK events. It was 7:30 p.m. as Lisa puts a Pyrex cooking pan into the oven to cook herself some dinner as Barry is out on a shoot. Before the oven even has time to heat up (seconds), the Pyrex pan violently explodes into many shards within the oven shaking the entire kitchen area. Lisa freaks out and immediately calls Barry on his cell to discuss her fragile emotional situation.

Later that same evening Barry arrives home and consoles Lisa. They finally retire for the evening not knowing what is about to occur. At 1 a.m. (which is now the 18<sup>th</sup>), they both hear the sounds of coins falling and hitting the nightstand next to the bed. A careful search of the bedroom reveals that there are no coins to be found. Lisa's nerves are definitely frazzled at this point.

For the next two months everything seems to have calmed way down as there is not a single event experienced in the house. The world has returned to normal again. At least it would appear so to Lisa and Barry. Comes February 14<sup>th</sup> of 2002, their peaceful bliss starts to crack apart once again. It's 7 p.m. and Barry and Beau are at the bottom of the stairwell when both he and the dog look up as they hear what sounds like Lisa walking down the staircase. However, there's no one there. Lisa is in the bathroom upstairs preparing to leave and was nowhere near the stairs. So much for home sweet home.

As the cycle appeared to be starting again, Barry and Lisa were not that surprised when *only* four days later on February 18<sup>th</sup>, the next event occurred. While Lisa was in the upstairs bathroom at around 11 p.m. getting ready for bed, she clearly hears disembodied voices “counting down”.

She quickly comes out of the bathroom to see if the bedroom's TV or radio was on, only to find Barry already in bed. She told him what she had just heard while in the bathroom and he responded that he hadn't heard anything.

The very next morning, the 19<sup>th</sup> of February at 10:30 a.m. Lisa is again in the upstairs bathroom and something violently pulls on her long blonde hair. She's really starting to panic at this point. Barry left very early that day on a shoot leaving Lisa alone in the house. Throughout the entire day, the telephone rings incessantly, yet no one is ever on the line. The "Caller ID" reads as if there is no call coming in. Lisa tries the auto-redial function on the phone but it refuses to work. She then tries another form of auto-redial through the phone company, and it too fails to operate. She eventually calls the phone company in search of an answer. They tell her that they have no indication of *any* calls whatsoever coming into that phone line during that period of time. Again, classic poltergeist activity. Lisa is at her wit's end.

The next four days were a very short respite where nothing peculiar occurred. But, as all good things come to an end, so did this brief interlude. The next event demonstrated a significant change in the nature of the PK activity as it ventured beyond their home environment for the first time.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> while at the Best Buy store in Burbank, California, Lisa is in one of the store's many aisles searching through the vast array of available DVDs when she suddenly feels a hand stroking her hair from behind. She abruptly turns expecting to see Barry behind her pulling a prank. To her dismay, the aisle was empty with the exception of her, and of course whatever touched her hair. Barry was many aisles away at the time. Lisa begins shaking so intensely that Barry had to take her home immediately.

Four days later, Barry and Lisa are in the living room about to watch a DVD when they clearly hear a disembodied female voice moving across the room in front of the entertainment center. The "voice", which was unintelligible, appeared to move from the left wall and exit through the large glass wall where the dog normally sleeps on his pillow. It is important to note here that the entertainment system was completely off at the time. Another interesting fact to consider is that Barry's home is up on a hill and there are no homes within less than 200 yards. What then was the source of the disembodied voice?

Moving ahead a little more than two weeks, March 16<sup>th</sup> again showed the intensity of the force behind these psychokinetic events. At 6:30 a.m. the downstairs hallway door leading to the bathroom and bedroom violently slams shut.

The force was great enough to shake the entire house and awaken Lisa upstairs; Barry said it was like a cannon shot or loud sonic boom. For obvious reasons, Lisa could not go back to sleep after this event.

The very next morning at 10:30 a.m. Barry and Lisa are in the kitchen when they both feel a strong, cold wind blow through that part of the house. However, all the doors and windows were closed and the heat was on.

Life somewhat calms down for the next three weeks and Lisa is finally able to relax, praying that these events may have finally ended. To her dismay, On April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Barry walks by one of the dressers in the master bedroom, which still has Christmas lights hanging behind them. Suddenly, the row of multi-colored lights, fly off the wall in front of both Lisa and Barry and hit the floor some distance from the dresser.

Later that same day at 4:15 p.m. I was at Barry's house waiting for them downstairs when I clearly heard what sounds like muffled or garbled female voices in the living room accompanied by an intense feeling of "overpressure". I walked around the bottom floor of the house even going so far as to walk around the outside of the house hoping to find a prosaic explanation for the disembodied voices only to discover nothing.

The next series of events were, in my opinion, the most intriguing for a number of reasons. The least of which is that I spent a good part of the day and evening with Barry and Lisa as we went down to San Diego to investigate another alleged haunted house during which time we were almost continually bombarded by a bizarre array of auditory PK events.

Okay, I know what you're probably thinking here. Why are we going out to distant locations to investigate other people's haunted houses when we have one right under our nose? As one might expect, I had repeated discussions with Barry about setting up all of our instruments and cameras in his house with the hope of documenting some aspect of the events objectively. When Barry brought this matter up with Lisa, she was vehemently opposed to such a venture. When I asked her this obvious question, she simply refused to answer and changed the subject. She was very conflicted on this matter. As the old saying goes; "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink".

Based on what Barry later told me, Lisa was raised in a very religious Presbyterian family that made her believe that these types of events were evil, the result of Satan's own work.

If this manner of dogma was drilled into her head as a child that would certainly explain her aversion to my request. Therefore, the notion of poltergeist events being investigated at remote locations posed little, if any, threat to Lisa.

On our way down to San Diego in Barry's van we kept hearing odd ringing sounds. It was not coming from any of our cell phones, Barry's pager or the van itself. While eating dinner at the Hungry Tiger restaurant in Temecula, the same unusual ringing was continuously heard at our booth by us, by other diners and the waitress. The ringing itself was unusual; always three successive rings appeared to come from around Lisa, then next to me and then in the wall to my right in the booth. These series of rings must have occurred at least a dozen or more times. It was clearly not Barry or Lisa's cell phone or pager as they all made very distinctive sounds and, were all left in the van and not brought in to the restaurant. After eating we resumed our trip to San Diego and arrived at the woman's house, no further sounds were heard.

We left the San Diego house at 11:40 p.m. and had a two and-a-half hour ride back to Barry's house. Almost immediately, the ringing began again. There was no discernable pattern or interval period to the ringing. Half joking, I began taunting the "source" of the ringing and surprisingly it appeared to respond. We immediately made sure all cell phones, pagers, walkie-talkies, etc. were not responsible for the sets of three rings that appeared to emanate from the front of the van area around Lisa.

When I asked the "source" of the ringing if it was *not* a random function of nature, it immediately rang in response. I then asked "it" to ring four times for yes and five times for no, giving some indication that whatever we were dealing with was in fact responding to my verbal query. I asked if the rings were the result of a poltergeist attached to Lisa McIntosh, it immediately rang "four" times in response, which it had not done previously. The next question from me was as to whether "it" was non-corporeal in nature; it instantly fired back a "yes" of four rings. The "poltergeist" responded in five rings ("no") to many other questions. When I finally asked if the source of the poltergeist was from the distant past, we heard a repeated affirmation of four rings over and over.

By this point in time, Lisa was really freaking out, shaking severely. Lisa's frightful reaction to the escalating events grew so severe that Barry became very upset losing control of the van three separate times, which was more unnerving than the PK events. Fortunately, Barry avoided hitting anything.

The most puzzling aspect of this entire episode was that as the ringing started to taper off, Lisa abruptly falls asleep, which given her heightened state of arousal, anxiety and fear was very unusual, except for the fact that the hour was very late approaching 2 a.m.

As we started approaching Barry's house, the frequency of the ringing dramatically diminished as did its willingness to respond to any more of my questions. The last ringing occurred at 1:46 a.m. We pulled up into Barry's driveway at approximately 2:04 a.m. Lisa was sound asleep as it took quite a bit of prodding on Barry's part to wake her.

A peculiar afterthought on this particular PK outbreak is that the next day Lisa remembered that earlier in the day before I arrived "something" kept turning the ringers off on all of the different phones in their house. As Barry has his office in his home, neither of them would ever do such a foolish thing.

The next five weeks were peaceful bliss as everything, once again, returned to normal. But on May 29<sup>th</sup> while Lisa is upstairs in the bathroom at 11 a.m. she clearly hears Barry calling her. She leaves the bathroom saying that she'll be right down. However, when she comes downstairs she discovers that Barry has been on the phone during the entire time and did not call to her.

Just as summer of 2002 is about to begin so does another surge in the poltergeist activity around Lisa. At 3 p.m. on June 11<sup>th</sup>, Barry and Lisa are hugging in the garage when the house's back door that opens into the garage violently slams shut without any wind. The force of the door slamming shakes the garage area.

A month and a day later on July 12<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10 a.m., an autographed photo of Tippi Hedren, with a heavy frame on the display table in the dining room flies several feet (6-8 ft.) across the room landing near the stone fireplace. Barry and Lisa return the photo to its rightful position and it again finds its way (unseen) to the same area of dining room.

Over the next few weeks Lisa again hears what she believes is Barry calling to her only to run downstairs and discover that he wasn't even home. These events are followed shortly by several incidents where Lisa is looking through their large, walk-in closet off the master bedroom upstairs, when there are loud poundings and knockings right in front of her. She panics and runs downstairs to get away from that part of the house.

Ten days later on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. the phenomena ascended to a new level in its communicative endeavor. Lisa's upstairs in the office running off copies of *California's Most Haunted* for Barry when suddenly the computer which was open to MS Word at the time, starts generating its own text in the middle of the screen. The letters "cu" and "et" mysteriously appear on their own without any input from Lisa at the keyboard. Lisa panics and runs downstairs. Unfortunately, Barry wasn't home to console her.

Later that day, after Lisa has stayed out of the house for hours, she returns, emotionally exhausted. Summoning all her courage and bravery she manages to go back upstairs and take a shower. As she was about to learn, this would turn out to be a *very* bad decision on her part.

While showering, the power in the house suddenly fails, requiring Lisa to find her way downstairs dripping wet and naked to the breakers and reset them. There have been occasional power failures in that region of Glendale, but this event *only* affected Barry's house. The power came back on several hours later before Barry came home. Lisa was emotionally crumbling at this point.

Four days later on August 11<sup>th</sup>, it's 3 a.m. and Barry cannot fall asleep so he decides to get some unfinished work done in his office. While at the computer, he clearly hears the sound of heavy footsteps coming up the staircase and approaching the office door. He strongly feels the sensation of being watched and turns expecting to see Lisa or someone at the room's entrance. There was no one there and Lisa was sound asleep at the time.

Two and-a-half weeks later at 9:15 p.m. and Lisa's upstairs in the bathroom when she hears heavy footsteps coming up the stairs and approaching the bathroom. She panics and starts screaming. Again, Barry was out on a shoot.

It's now September 3<sup>rd</sup> very late at night. Barry is upstairs working in the office when he hears the sounds of someone or something running around the house and garage making a great deal of noise. His investigation finds nothing to account for the sounds. Earlier that day, Barry recalls an incident when he was positive that he heard Lisa calling to him, only later to realize that she was not even home at the time.

For the next two months the volleys of psychokinetic events seemed to take a vacation as all was quiet in the Conrad home, so much so, that Barry began to worry that something very large was looming just ahead.

The quiet interlude was subtly broken on November 4<sup>th</sup> when Lisa is in the bathroom upstairs when the shower curtains begin to move as if blown by a strong wind. However, the windows are closed and the heat was *not* on.

Over the next twenty-five weeks (approx. 6 months) Barry's house is eerily quiet. In fact, this interval is the longest duration when there was a complete cessation of paranormal events. Everything was back to normal and traumatized psyches could mend. Unfortunately, this was a totally false sense of security and serenity, but not for the obvious reasons.

During this half-year period of time, Lisa begins experiencing intense headaches, shooting pains throughout her body, especially in her bones. However, as Lisa had an intense mistrust and hatred of physicians for reasons never discussed, she starts consuming bottles of over-the-counter pain relievers (Tylenol, Aleve, Advil, etc.) per day as opposed to seeing a doctor and getting properly diagnosed. Unfortunately, self-medicating almost always has dire consequences.

It's now late spring of 2003. On the morning of May 13<sup>th</sup> Barry and Lisa are sound asleep in bed with not a care in the world as they believe the psychokinetic outbreaks are now long gone. At 5:45 a.m. their serenity is abruptly shattered when they are rudely awakened by several loud bangs and knocks coming from the ceiling and walls of the bedroom. Over an estimated five-minute period, they hear repeated volleys of three intense bangs emanating from various walls around them. Lisa starts screaming and Barry desperately tries to calm her down. Barry then gets up and a knocks back (on the wall), attempting to communicate with whatever is producing the knocks. There is no reply. Lisa is trying very hard to maintain her composure given what's transpiring around her.

There is another break for the next two weeks. On May 26<sup>th</sup> one of the strangest episodes in this entire case occurs. At around 9:30 p.m., Lisa and Barry are watching TV in the living room when they hear an unusual noise coming from the kitchen. Bracing themselves, they and their new dog Buster, go to investigate.

As they enter the dining room both of them observe a large, dark, amorphous apparitional image, not in the expected shape of a human being, but as a large, distorted letter "M". The image lasts for several seconds as Buster starts to growl and bark at it. Barry and Lisa look at each other trying to understand what they've just seen. At the time, seeing such an obscure apparitional image had absolutely no meaning to anyone, including this author. In fact, I do not recall any instance similar to this ever being reported in research literature. The significance of seeing a large letter "M" will not become relevant for almost twenty more months.

Later that same evening at 11:30 p.m. Lisa is upstairs getting ready for bed. Barry is still downstairs watching TV when he hears what sounds like shattering glass from the kitchen. Searching the kitchen and dining room reveals nothing. This sound was very similar to what was heard up the bedroom many months earlier and could be the crackling or snapping of high-voltage electrostatic discharge.

The next morning at 9 a.m. Barry was preparing to shave and shower and was unable to find his razor. It never reappears and he must purchase a new one.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May at approximately 9:30 a.m. the downstairs hallway cabinet door violently swings open with enough force to shake the entire house while Lisa and Barry are watching the news on TV. Lisa's terrified and it takes Barry hours to calm her down.

Two blessed months of silence again lull Lisa and Barry into another false sense of security. Their peace of mind is forcefully interrupted on July 28<sup>th</sup> at around 11 p.m. when they are both up in the office and Lisa feels a "warm hand" touch her right ribcage area which causes her to jump and start screaming.

There is another six-month interval when there is very little, if any, activity to report, most of it being sparse reoccurrences of banging and knockings or Lisa and Barry thinking they've heard each other calling.

Not until January 24<sup>th</sup> of 2004 does anything dramatic happen again. At 5:40 p.m. Barry, as usual, is on his way home from a shoot. At home, Lisa puts a chicken into the oven within a Pyrex pan. After less than five minutes there is loud explosion in the oven. The oven's door blows open and shards of the Pyrex glass pan are propelled out of the oven barely missing Lisa. Fortunately, she was on the other side of the kitchen nowhere near the front of the oven. Oddly, given the fierce nature of the explosion, the chicken itself, was untouched. It's as if the glass was blown out laterally away from the chicken. However, there was no way Lisa was going to attempt to once again roast that chicken after witnessing this event. This was now the second incident of this specific type, as the first one occurred on December 17, 2001.

Maybe the poltergeist "chickened out" if you'll excuse the pun, but things dramatically "simmered" down for the next three months until the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. At 7:55 p.m. Buster (the new dog) awakens from his slumber in the downstairs bedroom, walks out and intensely stares and then begins barking at the steps leading upstairs. Barry comes over to see what's going on, as Buster is normally a very calm dog. He looks up and sees nothing unusual. Cautiously going upstairs, Barry sees a bright blue flash of light without any apparent source.

As he turns around he notices that a framed photo from the bookshelf is lying on the floor. He places it back onto the shelf and walks away. Only moments later he again finds it on the floor, several feet away from the shelf. Fearing for Lisa's sanity, Barry doesn't tell her about this event.

Another thirty-eight days pass and everything has once again turned calm. But on June 2<sup>nd</sup> the calm is broken at 11:50 p.m. while Lisa and Barry are up in the bedroom watching TV. Something unseen slams into the door of the cabinet holding the TV producing a loud crack, startling them. Once again, Lisa's is in a state of heightened anxiety.

Three weeks later, there is another event strongly indicating that these phenomena are associated with Lisa and travel with her away from her residence. Lisa accompanies Barry who went to the mid-west for work, after which he decided to visit his father in Ohio. It was a very pleasant trip and Lisa really enjoyed meeting many of Barry's family members. However, on June 24<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6 a.m., while Barry and Lisa are sleeping at Barry's father's house, their bedroom door begins to intensely shake and then repeatedly slam itself shut over the course of 10-15 seconds. Later that morning, when Barry goes to take a shower, the power in the house repeatedly quits only to abruptly turn itself on again.

What makes this event all the more compelling is that these events have *never* occurred prior to or since Lisa visited Barry's father's house. Over the last several decades since Barry moved to California, he has frequently gone back to visit his father in Ohio. There has *never* been an incident such as the aforementioned one in his father's house.

Since Barry has moved into his Glendale home, he has had numerous 4<sup>th</sup> of July barbecues with his friends. As usual, the food as well as the company was great and some guests stayed well beyond midnight into early the next morning talking out on the patio by the pool.

At around 1 a.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, several guests are still talking when Barry walks back into the house and discovers a large, heavy, lobby card (poster) that was leaning against the wall is now several feet away lying on the floor. A little later, after Lisa extinguished the Tiki torches around the edges of the pool in the back yard, she sees several of them reignite on their own. This had *never* happened before.

It takes ninety days for the phenomena to reassert itself. On October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 a.m. and again at 9 a.m., Barry and Lisa clearly hear a disembodied woman's voice seemingly coming from the downstairs area.

When Barry goes down to investigate, there is no one present. There are several more incidents of this type during that same day.

Two more months pass until December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m. when Barry is walking upstairs he hears something hit the wall right below the staircase. He goes to check and finds that his manual toothbrush is now lying beneath the stairwell next to the wall.

Over the following days to weeks, Lisa becomes very ill with a high fever and severe muscle and bone pains. Barry finally convinces her to go see a doctor, which she hesitantly does.

The news is very bad. Lisa is diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a very tenacious and debilitating form of blood/bone cancer. The lethality rate of this cancer is close to 100% as there is no known medical cure, although there have been some indicators that a particular form of magnetic polarization therapy significantly destroys the cancer without killing the patient. However, under current FDA guidelines, only pharmaceutical intervention can be labeled as a cure. Lisa is given intense chemotherapy, which appears to be working. However, she must consume powerful prescription pain meds, which make her very sleepy.

The diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma is most startling given what was seen by Lisa and Barry on May 26, 2003. The observed apparition of a large, dark letter "M" now has a very disturbing and foreboding significance. Was Lisa's unconscious mind trying to communicate with her conscious mind what was really going on within her body the only way it could long before she was diagnosed? This possibility, in and of itself is absolutely incredible and connotes high-strangeness beyond anything this author has ever heard of.

As Lisa fights her way back to health it appears that the chemo is doing its job. Lisa's blood work shows her to be in remission. However, in order for the remission to be considered complete, she must stay that way at least five years. As is quite common with this type of virulent cancer, Lisa bounces between remission and relapse.

On January 1, 2005, at 5:45 a.m. Barry and Lisa hear a loud explosion as if something crashed onto the floor. Buster refuses to go downstairs, but Barry does and finds nothing to account for the noise.

Over the next several months Lisa's health vacillates from good to bad. She begins losing great amounts of weight, as she cannot eat. The pain and incredible fatigue associated with her cancer comes and goes.

By early summer of 2005, she appeared, once again, to be in remission and starts going out of the house with Barry.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> of 2005 Barry and Lisa accompanied me out to a new haunting case on Cielo Drive within Benedict Canyon of Beverly Hills. If Cielo Drive rings a bell, it should. More than thirty-seven years ago on August 8, 1969 the followers of Charles Manson viciously murdered Sharon Tate and four of her friends.

A stone's throw away, maybe less that one hundred feet down the block, a new house was built in 2002 and was occupied by the son of the builder. Not surprisingly, the construction crew, the resident and many of his friends, have experienced a wide range of paranormal phenomena including apparitions, psychokinetic displays as well as disembodied voices.

However, we had absolutely no way of knowing upon our arrival just *how* utterly unique this specific property would turn out to be. Our instruments indicated bizarre and totally unprecedented magnetic field amplitudes and polarities throughout the entire house combined with an ambient electromagnetic background anywhere from 20-100 times normal. This house was a compass needle's worst nightmare.

After this first visit, Barry, Lisa and I came away from this house feeling physically ill. In fact, after turning beet red, I had passed out at the bottom of the stairwell where the highly localized geomagnetic field (GMF) measured out at 1,700 milligauss [mG], when 300-500 mG is normal. While both Barry and I had relatively strong adverse reactions to the high amplitude geomagnetic fields, as have about 67% of those visiting, Lisa's response was far more severe. In fact, there's a distinct possibility that her spending some 6-8 hours in the Cielo house pushed her back into a series of intense relapses from which she never recovered. However, I am *not* saying that the energy in the house was responsible for her untimely demise, but it possibly hastened its arrival. It then was *not* surprising to later learn that this specific location is listed by the U.S. Geological Survey as a geomagnetic anomaly site.

Had we known that this property had such strong, positively polarized magnetic fields associated with it, we never would have allowed Lisa to even step foot on the property, let alone within it. Over the course of almost four decades, nothing even close to these levels of energy has been experienced around here during such investigations. As mentioned earlier, there is substantial body of clinical evidence indicating that exposure to negatively polarized magnetic fields substantially inhibit the growth of many types of cancers, while positively polarized magnetic fields appear to rapidly accelerate their growth and proliferation.

It goes without saying that neither Barry nor Lisa ever returned to the Cielo house. I, on the other hand have visited that location more than twenty (20) times over the course of a year and have gotten sick on virtually every occasion.

Before you assume that I am a masochist with a death wish, let me assure you that it is simply a matter of my intense scientific curiosity overwhelming my logic on occasion. In my opinion, the Cielo case offers more potentially rewarding information towards unraveling this aspect of the paranormal than any other location I've visited during the course of my career. I may return to this location if I am paid to do so on a shoot or able to bring more sophisticated instrumentation into that environment to better study it.

However, there is one specific requirement that *must* be met before I ever return to this location again. It is that I fashion a head-to-foot suit out of Mu-metal to shield my body from the high intensity magnetic fields. I may look like a chunky alien, but at least I will no longer get physically ill from being in this house.

As the summer of 2005 ends so does the phenomena's dry spell at Barry's house. At midnight on September 26<sup>th</sup>, Lisa and Barry are about to go to sleep. Suddenly, there are extremely loud banging noises heard throughout the house preventing their rest. Buster goes nuts, believing someone is at the door. These poundings last for several minutes and then cease. At 3 a.m. there is another volley of loud pounds accompanied by footsteps coming up the stairs. Buster again goes wild. During this time Lisa has been very ill from the ever-growing cancer.

For the next eight months Lisa's physical condition rapidly deteriorates and the PK outbreaks stop. Lisa has started radiation therapy in hope of turning her condition around. She has lost much weight, has numerous tumors throughout her body and is very fatigued. Lisa knows that she's dying and tells Barry that she just wants to be free of the constant physical pain she's had for almost two years. Lisa promises Barry that if there is a way, she will attempt to contact and communicate with him from "the other side."

At 11 p.m. on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2006 there is a very loud explosion heard at the front of the house. No source is found.

Over the next nine days Lisa physically degenerates and lapses into a coma from which she never emerges. As she requested to be brought home from the hospital to spend her final days in a familiar environment there is round-the-clock nursing/medical care.

Approaching two in the morning on July 25<sup>th</sup>, Buster runs to the stairwell and begins intensely barking as he looks up to the top of the stairs, as if he could sense something Barry could not. Half an hour later, the nurse tells Barry that she believes Lisa is about to pass. Barry rushes to her side and holds her hand. Though she's in a coma, Lisa seems to be aware of Barry's touch and responds ever so slightly by very gently squeezing back. Lisa takes one last, painful breath of air and stops breathing at 1:50 a.m. Lisa no longer feels the incredible pain from the consuming cancer within her body. She is, at last, forever free of it.

Barry's eyes along with many of his friends and Lisa's twenty-three year old daughter well up with tears. There is silence in the large room as everyone gently lowers their head.

This brief moment of silent prayer is sharply broken by the sound of numerous doors within Barry's large house opening and closing on their own accord. This is shortly followed by lights in the patio and throughout the house flickering on and off. Was this Lisa's attempt at communication, or simply another one of the many PK incidents occurring in and around the house?

Four days later on July 29<sup>th</sup> at approximately 12:45 a.m. Barry is in the kitchen talking with Lisa's daughter's boyfriend while she is in the bathroom. An ice cube materializes (apports) into the space directly between them, hangs motionless in the air and then falls to the ground. Barry just takes it all in thinking that perhaps this is "contact" from a discarnate Lisa. The boyfriend doesn't believe in the paranormal. His eyes widen in terror as he immediately bolts out of the house.

After a sleepless night, Barry awakens late the next morning and goes to his office. For some unknown reason the front office door will not open. Something's preventing it from moving. Barry goes around through the bathroom and enters the office through the other door. He is astonished to discover many tapes he had recently shot for his current project are wedged against the front door preventing it from opening. No explanation. Does this represent "contact"?

Several extremely anguish filled days later, Barry and a friend are reviewing footage they are editing when they suddenly both hear and feel the whistling of cold wind moving through the house.

It's now early 2007 and Barry's house has returned to its normal ambiance that does *not* include poltergeist activity. This case presents a unique and fascinating opportunity to evaluate one of the major theories within parapsychology related to poltergeists.

As discussed earlier, modern academic paranormal researchers believe that “living, breathing” people, are the physical generators of recurrent spontaneous psychokinetic activity, better known as RSPK. Moreover, that there is a psychodynamic relationship between these unique individuals and the electromagnetic environment in which they live.

Moreover, a high percentage of these “poltergeist agents” or PGAs, are either seizure prone or epileptic. When these physically unique individuals take their prescribed meds to quell their seizures, the psychokinetic outbreaks cease as well. This more than suggests that the same region of the brain responsible for mediating seizures and epilepsy may also mitigate psychokinetic phenomena as well.

Strangely, most people suffering from seizures and/or epilepsy do *not* manifest poltergeist phenomena, while the majority of PGAs seem to be either seizure prone or epileptic. This observed mind-body nexus suggests that this might be a unilateral effect and that there is a missing or unknown variable here, which has yet to be discovered. My own case files clearly demonstrate this unexpected relationship. If we had only known what questions to ask many decades ago, the database on this matter would be absolutely enormous.

This case is unique and stands on its own for many reasons. Examining this case strictly from a medical perspective is perhaps the best starting point. According to the oncologists who dealt with Lisa and Barry, she is, perhaps, the youngest person on record to contract and so rapidly die from Multiple Myeloma as this form of cancer is normally associated with elderly patients, although its etiology is totally unknown.

As I was keeping and building the database on this case, entering data usually within hours after it occurred, we have the unique opportunity to retrospectively observe the longitudinal patterns that developed over the course of five years. The collected data *strongly suggests* that, in this particular case, the waxing and waning of the psychokinetic outbreaks were directly correlated with Lisa’s physical health.

When Lisa first started feeling sick enough to consume vast amounts of over-the-counter painkillers starting in late 2002 until May of 2003, we see the first major drop off in activity. It was as if her body was marshalling all of its energy to fight off the initial onslaught from the pathogens.

After Lisa became *very* ill around Christmas of 2004, necessitating her reluctant visit to a physician resulting in her being diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, we again see a significant attenuation of phenomena.

When she began to physically degenerate and required radiation therapy as a last resort, the RSPK activity around her almost completely abated.

Since Lisa’s passing in late July of 2006 and the minute flurry of events that followed, it feels more like the last capacitive discharges from her physically depleted system.

Although one cannot draw any conclusions from any single case, the accumulated database, which is far more comprehensive than discussed herein, and its biomedical correlations, may finally point us in the right direction in terms of understanding this type of phenomenon.

Generally speaking, in the majority of poltergeist agents I’ve personally investigated or read about, the phenomena dramatically tapers off or completely ends well before ones 30’s or 40’s. To the best of *my* knowledge, there has not been a single case where a documented and continuously active poltergeist agent dies and the phenomena abruptly stop. The normal course of events is one where the poltergeist agent simply ages and matures, “growing out of” their paranormal “condition”. I would think that the probability of a relatively young individual dying during the course of a poltergeist outbreak is extremely low. Therefore, such data would very likely not exist. If, in fact, it does, no one within the paranormal research community is aware of such at this time.

This case is more than simply amazing; it’s incredible, for it *finally* provides a physical, perhaps even *causal* link between the material world and the seemingly non-material, paranormal one.

I’ve had the privilege and pleasure of knowing and working with Barry Conrad as a research associate for eighteen years. In that time I’ve learned what a kind, gentle, intelligent and giving person he is. His dedication to parapsychology is rivaled perhaps only by my own. I’ve met every woman he’s dated since meeting him in 1988. Lisa was, in every respect, a breath of fresh air in Barry’s life of failed relationships with emotionally damaged women who frequently took advantage of his magnanimous nature while sharing absolutely nothing in common with him. Moreover, Lisa was a breath of fresh air in *everyone’s* life that came to know her. I had such admiration and respect for her, having talked with her extensively since meeting her in 2001, that I would have chosen her as a mate over *every* woman I’ve known in my five decades on earth.

Both Barry and I keep asking ourselves why did Lisa have to die at the tender young age of 42? In a world of over 6 billion souls residing on this small rock in the heavens, why was Lisa forced to give up her existence and the love she shared with all her friends, family and especially Barry? Why here, why now? What's the point and meaning of it all?

In a strange twist of fate, the loss of Lisa to my colleague and best friend Barry Conrad may have inadvertently provided us with a vital key to unlocking the very domain she dedicated her all-to-short life to. Let the loss of Lisa's physical life be seen as a new beginning in unraveling at least one small fraction of the paranormal. Barry's loss may have given the rest of us incalculable knowledge that we might never have otherwise acquired.

Lisa.... if there is any portion of you still residing within the physical world we call life, please hear the call from Barry and the rest of us. Your untimely death was not totally in vain. You will *never* be forgotten. As long as we remember you, keeping you alive in our hearts, minds and dreams, you are still with us. Thank you for being you. The world desperately needs many more enlightened beings just like you. You are truly one of kind.

Let this *not* be your final goodbye.

# Article: Signals from the Void

## Article: Signals from the Void: 'Ghosthunting' and the Suitability of Electronic Measuring Devices

Brian Allan

*\*AUTHORS NOTE\*, I should emphasise that this article describes items of equipment used in 'ghost hunting' as opposed to 'paranormal research'; the two although similar are not interchangeable. I base this statement on the difference between amateurs attempting to discover whether or not a particular location is 'haunted' and the work carried out into the validity of anomalous phenomena at centres of academia such as the Koestler unit at Edinburgh University.*

It has now become almost a prerequisite that groups of modern ghost-hunters (as opposed to paranormal researchers as defined above) must possess a considerable arsenal of hi-tech test equipment for use in their various enterprises. The reasons for this are uncertain and the ability of those who use this equipment to interpret the readings correctly even more so. Perhaps one contributing factor to the puzzle is the popularity of TV shows that have succeeded in trivialising an extremely important subject and cheapening it almost to the level of a sport. One type of show relies on the theatrics of mediums while the others make use of electronic measuring equipment in lieu of psychics.

### The Tools

Perhaps at its most basic one of the worst aspects of the renewed interest in the paranormal is the upswing in the use of Ouija boards, the name derives from the French and German words for yes, which are probably the most fundamental form of hardware used in attempts to contact the 'other side'. These devices, whose operating principles are unknown, are used on a regular basis in domestic situations when groups of amateurs attempt to contact departed relatives etc. This is a potentially dangerous activity since the situation is normally uncontrolled and those present are likely to be in a nervous, excitable and suggestible state. However, mechanisms aside, depending on the protocols set for any given situation they may still be a valid area of study.

Other frequently used items of low-tech equipment are so-called trigger objects, which usually comprise small items, normally wooden, with simple outlines (like a crucifix). Although the simple design of the crucifix has practical benefits there are also obvious symbolic overtones. The objects are usually deployed at strategic locations where frequent occurrences of anomalous activity have been reported and are placed on squares of white paper or card onto which the outline of the object is traced. The theory is that 'spirit', (an imprecise term), will signal its presence by causing the object to move and the movement will be identified because of the traced outline. This is a contentious issue because there is no positive link between the movement of these articles and the presence of any alleged 'spirit entity'. That aside, it is often found that 'hauntings' tend to occur within specific locations irrespective of whether they are in the open or in a building, which opens up a raft of explanations for localised apparitions. These include the disputed theory that an event or person has somehow become 'recorded' or 'imprinted' into the environment and replays like a recording under certain unspecified and as yet unknown conditions.

The list of modern equipment is impressive and fairly expensive; it includes at the accessible end of the scale: *Electromagnetic (EMF) field meters, electrostatic (ESM) field meters, Geiger counters, anemometers, barometers, tape recorders, cameras, CCTV cameras and monitors, infra-red alarm sensors, thermocouple (TC) and resistance (RT) based digital thermometers, 'point and shoot' infra-red thermometers, usually with a laser pointer, night-vision viewers, a set of two-way radios and common or garden magnetic compasses*. While at the top end, and normally under the aegis of paranormal research as I previously defined it, we have such extremely expensive equipment as *Electro-encephalograms (ECG's) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanners*. Devices like the last two, although highly desirable due to their ability to monitor the brain activity of, e.g. mediums in trance, are normally outwith the resources of amateur researchers and therefore are more appropriate to the work conducted in universities etc.

### Magnetic Fields

Both EMF and ESM meters are self-explanatory and indicate that there is an increase in the ambient, magnetic, electrical or electrostatic fields in any given location, but what do the readings actually mean? Do they signify the presence of a ghost/spirit/discarnate entity?

Perhaps, but probably not, I recommend checking (if inside) the electrical wiring, any domestic electrical appliances in use and the location of any nearby pylons, radar arrays and radio masts first. Pylons, radar arrays, and radio masts may be relevant to all investigations whether inside a dwelling or in the open air, especially if they create electromagnetic (EM) 'hotspots'. Although a sensible precaution, there is no guarantee that noting the location of existing sources of EM radiation (so-called 'baseline readings') will help explain the presence of anomalous activity. Why should this dubiety occur? Because of the implications raised by the readings themselves, e.g. does this mean that the presence of an EM field indicates that a manifestation is occurring? Is the manifestation caused by the presence of the field or does the manifestation cause the field, or both, or neither? Does the presence of any elevated EM field create the neurological conditions for the human brain to 'see' these events, or do 'they' perhaps exist as a layer in the ubiquitous background ocean of radiation that surrounds us.

The truth is, in fact, that we can only hypothesise, as the readings are frequently anomalous and often spurious. The basis for this opinion is taken in the main from personal experiences using a Trifield meter. I have repeatedly witnessed the meter, when set on 0-1milligauss, deflect to top scale when a medium announced the presence of an entity, this announcement precisely and repeatedly matched the deflection. Even this interesting result does not guarantee that there is a link since, reflecting the comments in the previous paragraph; the elevated field may have had an effect at specific locations in the brain of the medium inducing a purely subjective response that the medium interpreted as an entity. This may be analogous to the experiments carried out by professor Persinger and we shall return to this point a little later. Even the humble magnetic compass is also a valid tool to measure variations in the local magnetic field where the needle, which has previously been aligned with magnetic north, suddenly begins swinging wildly. Perhaps this may cause some confusion since we are comparing the earth's magnetic field with other sources of magnetism, but should the meter suddenly deflect at the same time as an event occurs then there may be some connection.

It is recognised that Prof. Persinger at the Laurentian University in Canada has used magnetic fields of specific magnitudes to induce various subjective impressions in people who volunteered to participate in a series of experiments. He did this by using what looks like a modified crash helmet into which were installed an array of coils that could be energised in a number of patterns.

Does this mean that ghosts and apparitions are purely the result of exposure to stray magnetic fields of all frequencies and magnitudes, or only to those used by Prof Persinger? We should perhaps reflect on the premise that just because a reaction can be simulated does not negate other possibilities.

### Temperature Measurement

The next items for consideration are thermometers; especially the 'point and shoot' laser pointer variety. Other than for cosmetic effect they are of little use because they are simply not fit for purpose. These devices are designed to take surface readings from the bearings on running items of heavy plant, (e.g. industrial electric motors and pumps). They are not designed to sample mid air temperatures in open spaces because they operate by measuring infrared (heat) emissions from the surface to be measured. Conventional thermocouple (T/C) or resistance thermometer (R/T) probe based digital thermometers are much more suitable, but why measure temperature at all? One possible hypothesis may be that if there is an anomalous movement from an object concurrent with the appearance of a 'cold spot', then, since our understanding of physics states that we don't get something for nothing, and since sound or movement involves the expenditure of energy it has to come from somewhere. In other words thermal energy is somehow exchanged for kinetic energy and the laws of physics are satisfied.

### Images

Cameras are vital for recording evidence sought on ghost-hunts, but care must be taken in interpreting the images captured, especially on digital cameras. It is this technology that, in the main, appears to capture images of so called 'orbs', which orthodoxy deems as light reflected from dust particles, drops of moisture and out of focus insects. While many orbs do fall under the heading of dust etc, some of the images (faces & figures etc.) that have been caught inside orbs are truly astonishing. Unlike simulacra (spontaneous, natural objects like boulders, tree bark, plants etc that emulate the appearance of other, frequently living, forms. The images seen in some 'orbs' do not appear illusory, they do not appear to be a chance collection of pixels or born of the desire to see 'faces in the fire', but what they actually are, by their very nature, is extremely speculative and further research is required to rule out the possibility of pareidolia.

### Infrared Viewers

Night vision equipment does make some aspects of vigils a bit easier but, once again, are of dubious use in determining anything truly 'paranormal'.

Although early examples of these devices function well in low light conditions, they require an additional infrared illuminator for use in total darkness, although this is not required for fourth generation (usually military) instruments. For the most part the amateur has access to equipment such as Sony zero-lux night vision cameras and Russian made infrared viewers. There is always the valid question of why vigils are held in the dark at all, which is a reasonable point since there is no real reason other than for atmosphere and effect, although it has also been suggested that 'spirit' is inhibited by the presence of light. It can of course be argued that IR illuminators are not lights in a conventional sense, but that is entirely from our perspective. If 'spirit entities' do exist alongside us we cannot say with any certainty that their senses are constrained by the same limitations, so perhaps IR illuminators do act as a disincentive for them. We shall return to the subject of vigils in the conclusion.

### Conclusion

On the face of it measuring and recording devices are fine, but be aware that they are not infallible and unless the people who use them are aware of how they work, what they measure and how to interpret the readings, they are open to misinterpretation and because of this may be of limited use. As a social exercise vigils, both day and night, are fine but often achieve little, although to be fair, if there are a number of experienced team members present and they know what they are doing it can at least make an investigation easier, although this does not guarantee success. One last word on vigils, it is often for purely practical reasons that many vigils occur at night (or in the evening), especially in locations that are busy during the day. Additionally, always remember that the vast majority of people who comprise investigative groups also have day jobs and unless access to locations is available during daylight hours at weekends, then there can be little option other than to attend when the location is quiet.

The variation in individual group numbers is often due to a conscious decision by those who establish the group as the logistics and dynamics of running a large organisation can be difficult for a variety of reasons. In instances where repeated visits to a site are required this can introduce unwanted stresses on groups with a small number of members and is one of the few valid reasons for having relatively large numbers involved. My own preference is, where possible, for smaller numbers, because it may be possible to get results by using other methods such as a reliable medium of proven worth even although, as with the Ouija board, we do not understand how their 'talent' functions.

It is frequently suggested that the inclusion of a medium only adds another level of uncertainty to an already uncertain equation, but providing the medium is, as already stated, reliable and has worked with a group on a regular basis with good results, then their use might well be justifiable when other more 'conventional' investigation methods have failed. It also goes without saying that a single visit to a location will usually yield poor or no results and it may require a number of visits to establish what, if anything, is happening.

Finally, in some circumstances, especially when confronting what we think of as the supernatural, electronics and gadgets may indicate that perhaps the wide flux of electromagnetic radiation surrounding us may be used by other beings that might also manipulate it to their advantage. Is this an attempt at communication? Perhaps it is, but it may also be solely an unintended by-product of their existence. Remember too that this ocean of radiation ranges from far below the infrared to way beyond the ultra-violet, in other words we can only ever physically see a sliver of this display, although our instruments reveal more. However, to rely on these devices as some sort of philosopher's stone indicating the presence of the dead is unhelpful as they can at best only sometimes show that there are increases in some types of magnetic fields that might or might not indicate the presence of 'spirit'.

Regrettably, within the scientific community there are still scientists who will never accept the validity of paranormal phenomena and in fairness the nature of the subject is in itself ephemeral and elusive. It is doubtful if the evidence that sceptics and debunkers would be willing to accept will ever emerge, especially when most of it comes from amateurs. Let's face it; quantum physicists still have difficulty convincing some of their Newtonian peers that their theories are valid, especially those that predict the existence of parallel realities, so what chance do those who promote the reality of discarnate entities have? And while electronic measuring and recording equipment may one day provide evidence of those who have passed over and even the forces behind poltergeist phenomena, perhaps we should close with the words of Stanislav Groff who said, *'If man had not discovered the paranormal, quantum physics would have predicted it was there'*

# Article: A New Investigation Method

## Article: A New Investigation Methodology

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Paranormal Site Investigators

**Note from the Editor: The following is PSI's new Investigation Methodology, in the detail in which it would be presented in investigation reports. The method is being trialled in autumn 2008 and PSI appreciates any feedback about any areas in need of clarity or modification.**

### 1. Introduction

'Ghosts' or 'spirits' as manifestations of the survival of human consciousness has been a near ubiquitous feature of human civilization across culture and time. In times before mass rationality, 'ghosts' were considered to be undeniable, paranormal entities driven by belief in either religion or folklore. The age of rationality has discounted reported paranormal events as the consequence of hoax or over-active imagination.

As reports of ghosts and hauntings continue to be common in the 21<sup>st</sup> century large numbers of people have made various attempts to explain or investigate the nature of hauntings. People have attempted to devise classification systems for 'ghosts', for example as 'sentient spirits', 'replay ghosts' and 'poltergeist'. These categories tend to stem from folklore and have no scientific basis, merely the human mind attempting to make sense of unexplained data. Former categories, such as 'crisis apparitions' and 'veridical apparitions' have waned in recent times.

The religion of 'spiritualism' grew in the nineteenth century; believing in the existence of God, an afterlife and ability of mediums to communicate with the spirits of the deceased.

Using objective methods to assess haunting claims has been popular since at least the late Victorian period. The last ten years has seen the TV-inspired proliferation of 'paranormal investigators', falling into several often indistinguishable methods:

- Religious experience. Mediums and psychics operate outside the scientific method, investigating under the assumption that God and the afterlife exists, and that

they are equipped to contact them. As is the nature of religious experience, such methods cannot provide objective evidence, just personal proof for those who believe.

- Hobbyism and thrill seeking. Various hobbyist 'investigator groups' and commercial companies have formed in recent years so cater for groups wishing to 'experience ghosts'. Such groups pre-suppose the existence of ghosts and enjoy the experience of misattribution to contribute to a 'night out'. Again, such pursuits offer personal experience and personal 'proof', but make no contribution to scientific understanding of the subject.
- Pseudo-science investigators. Portions of 'paranormal investigators' attempt to investigate ghosts in a 'scientific way'. This usually follows the 'fishing' approach of assuming a building is 'haunted' and using 'ghost detectors' to attempt to prove this. The typical approach is attempting to capture EMF readings, ghost photographs, EVP recordings and the like. This assumption-led approach has no grounding in science, and in fact such methods have been proven to be severely flawed. Over time some pseudo-science investigators have progressed to attempting to 'disprove' ghosts, but based on the unscientific false duality of assuming an experience is paranormal unless proven to be normal. Pseudo-science investigators often consider themselves to be scientific, but fail to adhere to basic scientific principles and have been shown to have contributed little to scientific knowledge of the hauntings.

### The Purpose of Rational Investigation

If most enquiries fall into the categories of person and religious experience for personal proof or assumption-led pseudo-science, what is left?

What is clear is that people have experiences they attribute to possible paranormal phenomena. Such 'hauntings' often arise as a result of misattribution of xenormal phenomena. Rather than assuming these events constitute a haunting and using unproven tools to unscientifically draw conclusions, rationality dictates we should begin with what is normal, rather than what is paranormal.

There are a range of proven tools and techniques that can be used to determine what is normal but which seems paranormal – i.e. the xenormal.

Forgetting EVP, mediumship, ghost photography, trigger objects, ITC, spiritual tools, inappropriate EMF meters and any other unscientific assumptions, rather than being distracted by this fools gold it is possible to really learn what is 'normal' in a case.

By proving what is normal, it is then possible to focus in heavily on those experiences that cannot yet be proven as normal.

This method seeks to rigorously identify all normal and xenonormal experiences in a haunting case, and flag up those experiences that cannot be proven as normal.

When these rare events present themselves it would be pseudo-scientific to adopt the false duality that anything unexplained automatically becomes paranormal. The next stage is to design rigorous research around these unexplained events, focussing on getting to the bottom of their cause.

Rather than adopting the traditional approach of drowning in the false evidence of traditional approaches – which have proven to fail, over the years – it is hoped that focussing rigorously on anything unexplained can allow us to discover something more meaningful about the nature of ghost experiences.

## 2. Equipment

Below is a full list of equipment used by PSI during investigations. Procedures for use of equipment and methodological justifications are found elsewhere in this document:

### Visual Equipment

- CCTV:
- Digital Video Recorder
- 20 inch Dell LCD screen
- 4 x Swann CCTV cameras
- 2 x dictaphones, IR sender/receivers and speakers.
- 4 x 5 metre cabling
- 2 x 36 metre cabling
- 6 x Video cameras with infrared boosters

### Monitoring Equipment:

- 2 x Data Logging Spectrum Analysers (Spectran NF-5010)
- 2 x Testo 405-1 Velocity Stick (hotwire anemometer)
- 2 x Lascar Carbon Monoxide Data Logger (EL-USB-CO)
- 6 x Lascar Temperature Data Logger (EL-USB-TC)
- 14 x Digital Voice Recorders (Olympus VN-3100PC)
- 2 x Infrasound Measuring Units (pending).

### Operational Equipment:

- 4 x UHF Two-way radios
- Floodlight with built in tripod
- 20 x Tripods and Microphone stands
- 3 x Laptop Computers
- Power Generator
- Enclosed gazebo (outdoor Monitoring Centre and Base Room)
- Ultrasonic Distance Measure
- 4 x power extension reels

## 3. Participants

The majority of PSI investigations take place within an environment where ethical sensitivity and conduct are paramount. As such all investigators are:

- Covered by Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £5,000,000.
- Checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).
- Selected by process of application form and interview.
- Fully trained in operations, ethics, conduct and equipment use by qualified trainers.

Where investigators take the role of 'percipient' they are considered to be participants of the study. Individual differences between percipients are tracked and monitored using:

- Thalbourne's Paranormal Belief Scale
- Perception of Context Questionnaire

Investigators will be organised into three operational roles: percipients, CCTV Monitors and EF (Extraenous Factor) Auditors. All investigators will be trained to execute all roles. Whilst fluidity between roles will be encouraged, some stability of experienced operatives will be ensured. Further, investigator roles will be held constant across the three events of any given investigation. Where investigators are familiar with the background of a case, where possible, they will not be assigned a percipient role.

## 4. Procedure

This document mainly concerns Phenomena Investigations, but the procedures for other investigations are also included here.

### 4.1 Exploratory Fieldwork

Exploratory fieldwork takes place where:

- The location is not suitably controlled, for example an outdoors location.
- The location is not available to PSI for sufficient time to conduct a Phenomena Investigation, for example a business premises with prohibitive opening hours.

- The location is not available to PSI on a sufficient number of occasions to conduct a Research Investigation.

The functions of exploratory fieldwork is to:

- Observe the process of perceiving an environment to generate research theories for testing.
- Test the functionality of new equipment and methods.

#### 4.2 Specific Research Investigations

Research investigations take place where:

- There are no vulnerable clients or clients seeking an explanation, for example a Local Authority building.
- Where the location is suitable for particular research purposes.

The functions of research investigations are to:

- Provide a location where meaningful research can be conducted and results shared with the research community. Such research should be well designed and seek to test a particular hypothesis.

#### 4.3 Longitudinal Phenomena Investigations

The hypotheses and rationale for Phenomena Investigations are contained in the rest of this document.

For methodological reasons discussed elsewhere, Phenomena Investigations take place over at least three occasions; these occasions should be sufficiently far apart to allow meaningful analysis:

1. Baseline Investigation; where functions are:
  - To build the Monitoring Baseline.
  - To build the Physical Baseline.
  - To build the Extraenous Factors Baseline.
  - To build the Perception Baseline.
2. Percipient Investigation; where functions are:
  - To allow percipients to observe, in matched circumstances, compared to original reports, and monitor similarities between the two.
  - To continue to build the Monitoring, Physical and Extraenous Factors Baselines
3. Analysis Investigation; where functions are:
  - To allow percipients to observe, in matched circumstances, with knowledge of previous reports to attempt to find explanations for original reports.
  - To continue to build the Monitoring, Physical and Extraenous Factors Baselines.
  - To allow group analysis of reports to attempt to find xenonormal origins for original and subsequent reports.

##### 4.3.1 Pre-Investigation Procedure

The following steps should be taken prior to the first event:

- Agree terms of access with the venue and conduct a Risk Assessment.

- Ensure the venue is aware of the full procedure, in line with the Statement of Ethics.
- Fully interview all available witnesses and compile any accounts of previous activity (interviewers should not act as a Percipient during the Baseline Investigation).
- Produce a briefing of eyewitness and other findings.
- Select Areas of Study, produce a map including hotspots. Criteria for selection of Areas of Study are:
  - 2 x Percipient Areas. This should include one room with previous accounts of hauntings ('Active') and one similar room with no accounts of hauntings ('Control'). These areas should be used for Percipient Observation, percipients should not be informed which area is which.
  - 2 x Non-Percipient Areas. This should include one room with previous accounts of hauntings and one similar room with no accounts of hauntings. These areas should be subjected to CCTV and sound monitoring.
- Where there are more than two rooms with previous haunt experiences a decision should be made based on the following paper-based criteria:
  - Recency of experiences.
  - Any experiences less explicable by non-investigative means.
  - Multiple, independent accounts.
- The circumstances of experiences should be recorded and matched during subsequent investigations.

##### 4.3.2 Preparation

The set-up for any of these investigation events shall consist of:

1. Location of:
  - A Base Room for rest and storage.
  - A Monitoring Centre for CCTV, sound and data logger monitoring. A set of criteria shall be applied to include: distance from Areas of Study, including measurement of sound pollution and power sources or distances from generator (including sound measurement from generator).
  - Viable areas of travel for Extraneous Factors Auditors.
2. Equipment and Participant Preparation, to include:
  - Participant paperwork, to include: Code of Conduct and Disclaimer signing, percipient scales, questionnaires and procedural paperwork.
  - Time synchronisation against the talking clock between watches, laptops, voice recorders, DVR unit, camcorders and stills cameras.
  - Laptop activation of data logging equipment.
  - Allocation of roles and any equipment to individuals, including allocation of marked Data Loggers to percipients.
  - All duplicate equipment should be allocated a unique number.

#### 4.3.3 *Placing of Equipment*

Equipment should be placed as follows:

- Monitoring Centre: CCTV screen, DVR unit, IR units x 2, speakers x 2, mixing unit and data logging laptop.
- Non-Percipient areas, 1 x active, 1 x control: CCTV camera on tripod/stand in the corner of the room with best coverage of the room and any entrances/exits, microphone also on tripod/stand.
- Percipient areas 1 x active, 1 x control:
  - One tripod with temperature data logger for each percipient, placed within the area allocated as a 'hotspot'. These should not be moved for the whole event.
  - One EM field meter within a 'hotspot' connected to a laptop.
  - CCTV camera on tripod/stand in the corner of the room with best coverage of the percipients and all equipment.
  - At least two camcorders with IR boosters on tripods/stands covering the lines of sight of the percipients. Operatives should test all cameras to ensure crossover of IR beams does not cause unintended effects. These camcorders should only be operated during Percipient Observation sessions.
  - One voice recorder constantly recording throughout the event.
- Other areas: voice recorders should be left continuously recording for the whole event. Six recorders will be left in locations around the experimental rooms where sounds could be heard (for example in rooms on other floors, outside the room).
- A diagram must be generated of the positions of all units of equipment and of all percipients.
- All equipment should be left in its original position for the entire event.
- At the end of the event equipment should be given to analysts or returned to the laptop for data logging to be completed.

(See next page for 4.3.4.-6)

#### 4.3.7 *Percipient Observation Procedure*

- The circumstances in each Area of Study should match circumstances of original accounts. The general time of day/night and the level of lighting in the room should match these as closely as possible.
- No equipment should be moved during the course of the event.
- Percipients should remain in a seat next to their marked Data Logger.
- Every one set of investigations should focus on two control and two experimental areas.
- Percipients should be randomly assigned to two groups that should spend one session in each of the two experimental areas, in a randomly generated order.

- Each session should be rotated in two, 30 minute blocks:
  - 10 minutes: Silent observation.
  - 10 minutes: Observation in conversation.
  - 10 minutes: Engaging in a self-distracting activity.
- In each group there will be the following roles:
  - Person A: Group spokesperson to the other units, using the radio.
  - Person B: Group spokesperson using the voice recorder. Every percipient should state unusual experience (including possible natural causes) in precise terms; this should be recorded. Person B should also co-ordinate use of stills cameras (as below).
  - Person C: Holder of the anemometer, to measure any draughts where percipients experience temperature fluctuations. Person C will cease to be a percipient for the time it takes to take anemometer measurements.
  - Person D: Responsible for ensuring the changing of tapes in each camcorder prior to each session commencing.
- Percipients should only use stills cameras after an experience has been reported, and only where the experience has some sort of visual reference point. Two cameras should be used to capture the exact location of the experience, to provide objective visual evidence of the location of the experience.

#### 4.3.8 *CCTV Monitoring Procedure*

- CCTV Monitors should observe the four CCTV cameras throughout percipient sessions. Monitors should also listen to audio streams in control rooms.
- There should be the following roles:
  - Person A: Spokesperson on the voice recorder. All visual or auditory events in any of the four locations should be recorded onto a voice recorder, in specific detail.
  - Person B: Holder of the radio to communicate with the percipient groups and inform the EF Auditors of any potential EFAs. Also to monitor all time keeping for all groups.

#### 4.3.9 *Extraenous Factor (EF) Auditor Procedure*

- EF Auditors should use agreed routes to traverse a location highlighting any EFAs throughout the course of percipient sessions, independent of the Percipient Observation.
- There should be the following roles:
  - Person A: Spokesperson on the voice recorder. Any emerging EFAs in any area should be recorded in detail.
  - Person B: Holder of the radio to communicate with the percipient groups and CCTV monitors to advise or be advised of any potential EFAs.

4.3.4 Procedure for Baseline Investigations

| Time      | Activity                    | Detail  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| 90 mins   | Preparation                 | As above, without prior knowledge of reports                              |
|           | Placing of Equipment        | As above  |
| 90 mins   | Extraenous Factors Baseline | Using check sheets to monitor all EFAs possible within the timeframe      |
|           | Physical Baseline           | Fully record the physical environment using stills cameras                |
| 120 mins* | Perception Baseline         | Percipients should remain next to a data logger within the hotspot        |
|           | CCTV Monitoring             | By two nominated individuals  |
|           | Continuous EFA              | Two nominated individuals to continually assess EFs and respond to others |
| 45 mins   | Disassembly                 | Disassembly of all equipment  |
|           | Debriefing                  | Debriefing as per Statement of Ethics                                     |

Event length including breaks: 6.5 Hours

4.3.5 Procedure for Percipient Investigations

| Time      | Activity                    | Detail  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| 60 mins   | Preparation                 | As above, with prior knowledge of reports                                 |
|           | Placing of Equipment        | As above  |
| 60 mins   | Extraenous Factors Baseline | Using check sheets to monitor all EFAs possible within the timeframe      |
|           | Physical Baseline           | Fully record the physical environment using stills cameras                |
| 120 mins* | Percipient Observation      | Percipients should remain next to a data logger within the hotspot        |
|           | CCTV Monitoring             | By two nominated individuals  |
|           | Continuous EFA              | Two nominated individuals to continually assess EFs and respond to others |
| 45 mins   | Disassembly                 | Disassembly of all equipment  |
|           | Debriefing                  | Debriefing as per Statement of Ethics                                     |

Event length including breaks: 5.5 Hours

4.3.6 Procedure for Analysis Investigations

| Time      | Activity                    | Detail  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| 45 mins   | Preparation                 | As above, with prior knowledge of reports   |
|           | Placing of Equipment        | As above  |
| 45 mins   | Extraenous Factors Baseline | Using check sheets to monitor all EFAs possible within the timeframe                                    |
|           | Physical Baseline           | Fully record the physical environment using stills cameras  |
| 120 mins* | Percipient Observation      | Percipients should remain next to a data logger within the hotspot                                      |
|           | CCTV Monitoring             | By two nominated individuals  |
|           | Continuous EFA              | Two nominated individuals to continually assess EFs and respond to others                               |
| 120 mins  | Group Analysis              | On site analysis of all original and Categories C & D subsequent reports, with supporting documentation |
| 45 mins   | Disassembly                 | Disassembly of all equipment  |
|           | Debriefing                  | Debriefing as per Statement of Ethics   |

Event length including breaks: 7 Hours

\* In all three procedures this condition should take place at exactly the same time for consistency of matched circumstances. This will lead to the start and end times of each event being different to one another, in order to keep this Percipient Observation time consistent.

## 5. Methodological Detail

Much modern 'paranormal investigation' is based on a TV-inspired, assumption-led approach. The cornerstone of a rational, scientific approach is a defined, justified methodology.

So often methods are implied and unquestioned. The assumption-led approach analogises the investigation of hauntings to 'UFO spotting'. The assumption goes that ghosts exist, so that all one has to do is sit and wait for one to appear. A rational approach to the field recognises that haunting experience is often a psychological phenomena, calling for matched circumstances, control conditions and assiduous recording of the natural environment rather than sitting and waiting for an ambiguous experience

A rational approach also dictates that we place an emphasis on understanding what is normal, before trying to understand what is unexplained. This compares to the assumption-led, often unjustified approach of using unproven (and often disproven) tools such as EMF meters, stills cameras and EVP. Such methods typically go unjustified and when questioned all that is forthcoming is pseudo-scientific guesswork. This section seeks to justify everything an investigation involves, from a rational standpoint.

### The Xenonormal Approach

'Xenonormal' defines as something that is normal but unexplained at the time (literally, foreign). Most paranormal investigators – with the possible exception of the purely religious-spiritualist approach – are somewhat concerned with the xenonormal. The vast majority of ghost experiences – be they by experiences during investigations or original eyewitnesses – are xenonormal events that are attributed as 'paranormal' where either the belief or expectation exists to place that label on an unexplained event.

Rationally it is necessary to fully focus on explaining what is normal before considering what remains. In some circles a 'false duality' exists that suggests that anything that cannot be explained as normal must be, by default, paranormal. False duality is a hallmark of pseudo-science. Lack of evidence for the normal does not provide evidence for the paranormal and such events are merely left as 'unexplained at that particular time'. Often the 'normal' itself is lost because of the employment of myriad pseudo-scientific methods. A focus on EVP, spiritualism, photography, experiencing, etc, means that there is little time for the tireless search for the 'normal'.

Concentration of financial and human resources on pseudo-scientific methods also means that these resources cannot be fully invested in explaining normal events. The result of this full focus on the 'xenonormal' means that this methodology may, rarely, leave a truly significant event unexplained. Further methods can then be used to focus on these interesting events, rather than such events being 'lost' in the mountains of fools gold of pseudo-scientific evidence.

The most obvious result of the xenonormal approach is that all instruments used are focussed on this goal and human resources are employed to explain the normal and in control conditions, to allow comparison.

### The Nature of Ghost Experience

One of the first methodological questions to address is what we actually know about the nature of 'ghost experience'. Evidence from three years of standardised PSI investigations suggests that such experiences are often 'subjective' rather than 'objective'. This means that where one person has an experience but the people in the immediate vicinity do not, the source is more likely to be an internal psychological construct rather than an objective event.

Clearly an experience becomes more compelling where several individuals multiply experience and where objective recording tools can be used to assess its subject or objective evidential status.

It is generally recognised that human beings are poor recorders of unusual events. Events with an objective cause can often be psychologically misinterpreted; and studies of human memory show its fallibility in anything but the very short term. This has an impact on the analysis of evidence – an uncorroborated experience is likely to be psychological – in short, seeing is not believing. An impact is also had on the recording of experiences in that our fallible memories should never be relied on for anything.

### Recording of Data

Individual experiences should be objectively recorded immediately rather than relying on fallible memory. As such pen and paper recording is inappropriate, as the method relies on notes as an *aide memoir* to fill in the details later.

Consequently the only objective way to record is full explanations being immediately recorded on dictaphone and fully transcribed and permanently recorded. In analysis the unfortunate side effect of priming of others should be given due weight.

### Use of Control Conditions

The use of 'control' is a cornerstone of the scientific method. However it may seem like madness from the assumption-led approach to place equal emphasis on 'haunted' and 'non-haunted' areas (defined by eyewitness accounts).

Hauntings being often psychological events require a level of comparison, necessitating control. If an experience is derived from expectation coupled with ambiguous stimuli and a 'spooky' environment, it is important to control these factors. The logical result is the 'pairing' of rooms within a location. Matching two areas – one 'active' and one 'control', and not telling experiencers which is which – ensuring they are as similar as possible, allows the analyst to conclude whether it was the circumstances and environment caused experiences, as opposed to the 'active' status of the room.

The question remains of whether 'ghost experiences' are purely resultant of the perception of individuals. One question is whether there is something objectively and physically 'different' about 'active' locations, or whether any experiences are purely on a psychological level. This logically leads to the practice of having a further 'matched pair' of rooms that are objectively monitored remotely and recorded by CCTV. Again one is 'active' and one 'control' to allow for comparison, and experiencers do not enter these rooms at all.

This allows the building a full picture of an untouched area, to assess whether there are any physical differences between 'active' and 'control' areas, helping us to better understand whether 'ghost experiences' are subjective or objective. This involves continuous, remote monitoring and post-event assessment of physical changes in the environment by running the footage through a motion sensor programme.

### Unscientific and Pseudo-Scientific Tools and Methods

As previously noted this method seeks to use proven methods for finding xenormal phenomena. As such using unproven or disproven tools and methods are deemed inappropriate.

Such tools and methods are then used to either 'gather evidence' or to try to build evidence that such tools are appropriate for 'gathering evidence'. In the former case, such tools are either unproven, or have been disproven, as being associated with paranormal phenomena; therefore using them is undoubtedly irrational and unscientific. In the latter case, attempting to draw associations with paranormal events is fraught with methodological difficulty. Gathering 'anecdotal' evidence with such tools and methods – without assiduous recording of non-events, and hence suffering from poor probabilistic reasoning – does not contribute to scientific evidence. PSI conducted a standardised, three-year test of the below equipment and methods. Results were used to assess such tools and methods for usefulness and validity:

*EMF Meters.* Various paranormal theories abound relating to presence of electromagnetic fields (EMF) and how it may either be 'caused' by a ghost or, conversely may 'cause' a ghost. Needless to say no theoretical justification or model has ever been presented to back this up. The likely route of these theories is a misreading of peer-reviewed studies that demonstrated that weak, complex magnetic fields can cause hallucinations that can be misinterpreted by a primed individual. Once such misinterpreted understandings have taken hold, they are subsequently reinforced by poor probabilistic reasoning – for example any anecdotal coinciding of explainable EMF fluctuations with paranormal experience is not assessed for the rule of chance. In PSI's three year study we found that the role of chance more than accounted for any such coincidences.

*Ultrasonic, Humidity, Air Pressure and Ion Detectors.* Similar fringe theories have developed about the role of ultrasound, air ions and other possible fluctuations. Again there has been no theoretical justification for such theories. Again, use over PSI's three-year study showed that coincidences were accounted for by chance.

*Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP).* EVP – or allegedly the voices of the departed – have held interest for a number of decades. Needless to say many investigations use such methods, often with the result that methodological error or misattribution causes 'evidence'. It was known that factors such as: uncontrolled environments (movement in a building, sound recorders left unattended, speaking or whispering), radio frequency interference (RFI – where the use of white noise, a detuned radio, can pick up stray radio broadcasts) and technical factors (like lack of account of the Auto Gain Circuit and use of recorders with internal moving parts) all provide compelling natural causes. PSI conducted three hundred experimental EVP conditions, over three years, where these factors were accounted for.

Specifically, 'pure' generated white noise was used, digital voice recorders were used and experiments were silently and continuously monitored. No clear 'EVP' voices – at all – were established. This suggests that EVP – as well as not having a theoretical justification – produced at best no evidence, and at worst misattributed evidence. Past EVP studies may justify the need for studying the phenomena in independent and dedicated settings, but the lack of methodological justification and ethical problems attached does not justify use during investigations.

*Trigger Objects/kinetic experiments.* Historical 'evidence' of 'ghosts' moving objects – for example in so-called 'Poltergeist' cases – has led to the placing of objects during paranormal investigations, in expectation that a 'ghost' might move them. Again, problems of fraud, accidental movement and objective recording have provided problems for any 'evidence' gathered in this way – not to mention the myriad alternative causes for low-level movement. PSI's three-year study set up over one hundred and fifty such experiments over three years. Factors involving fraud, accidental movements were accounted for by continuous use of video cameras; which also served to provide an indication of possible vibration. In none of these experiments did a trigger object move. The lack of any compelling video evidence for trigger object movement leads to the conclusion that this – as well as being an assumption-led approach – has no practical merit as a dedicated activity.

*Photography.* Attempting to take photographs of 'ghosts' is a popular, assumption-led activity. In PSI's three-year study over three thousand photographs were taken and analysed. The presentation of 'ghost photos' seem to rely on the twin problems of low-light creating technical artefacts and users with little knowledge of the workings of cameras and the sorts of errors they can produce in certain circumstances. As none of the thousands of photographs were inexplicable – and no compelling 'ghost photo' has ever been captured – this assumption-led approach can be viewed as a waste of scarce resources.

Every 'new' paranormal investigation tool seems to rely on the presentation of ambiguous stimuli. For example audio units converting EM fields into sounds, which basically present scrambled sound which is ripe for the biased mind to endogenously interpret. Another category is the presentation of seriously flawed tools – like the KII meter – which are so prone to user error that they greatly increase false readings, allowing the biased mind to observe coincidences between false readings and other events.

### Further Avoiding the Assumption-Led Approach

The assumption-led approach presupposes the existence of ghosts and haunted houses, it assumes that these phenomena are caused by discarnate entities or dead people and assumes that by being in such a location ample evidence can be gathered to prove the existence of the paranormal. Whether these ideas are inaccurate or accurate has not been proven, but the assumption of them involves biases, which preclude rational enquiry.

The assumption that any ambiguous experiences may be paranormal leads to the adoption of techniques that reinforce such experiences. One example is conducting investigations at night, and automatically turning the lights off. There is little doubt that such an approach generates more ambiguous experiences – for example shifting shadows as eyes adjust to the dark and moving lights caused by unconscious eyeball movement – but these experiences are known to be xenonormal (and hence naturally explicable).

The assumption-led approach treats the original reported experience at a location as the baseline for gathering evidence. This method treats the original experience as central to the enquiry; if original experiences were explicable then any given case could be the result of misattribution. Therefore under this method – as far as it practically possible – circumstances are matched to the original reports so as to understand and analyse them more effectively. This includes the time of day or night and the level of lighting matching the original reports. Another hallmark of the assumption-led approach is the assumption that the cause of any experiences is some form of historical figure. Therefore historical research is often under-taken and an attempt to match such data to experiences. Poor interpretation and poor probabilistic reasoning are rife in such practices. In this method historical research is held to be an unnecessary distraction of resources, simply allowing for poor assumptions to be made which are likely to be the result of chance.

### Investigating the Xenonormal: Basic Approach

To understand what cannot be explained at a site an investigation must primarily consider what can be explained. The principle of 'baseline' is widely applied by paranormal investigators, but not in a rational way.

To truly understand what is normal it is necessary to visit and record a site over an extended period of time, over multiple visits.

### Establishing a Baseline

Common practice would be to 'baseline check' equipment periodically over one night. This leads to three major problems:

- Most equipment measures highly localised variables. The common practice of using portable equipment and periodically taking readings means that the reading is only relevant to particular position. As such walking around a location (even only a few inches) and reporting variation is meaningless.
- The natural variations an investigation is trying to establish in a location may be gradual – taking place over minutes – or may be more time sensitive. Taking readings on the basis of a few minutes leads to a high likelihood of missing variations. This is especially important where a reading is taken at the time of a possible paranormal event.
- A baseline is only being established for a particular room on a particular day. Any given baseline reading may be, for example, the highest or lowest point on any given day, week or area.

All these problems must be addressed to achieve meaningful baseline readings. Firstly equipment should be absolutely stationary throughout an entire investigation – not even just during sessions – and must assume the same position in subsequent visits. Readings should be logged in a timeframe suitable to the measure. For temperature, variation once a second might be sufficient, whereas for measuring Experience Inducing Fields (see below) readings should be taken one hundred times per second.

Finally it would be desirable for equipment to build up a picture of a location, continuously, over months. As this tends not to be practical in most locations, both visiting on multiple occasions and establishing a positional baseline (two identical pieces of equipment running simultaneously in similar locations) is an absolute minimum alternative.

Establishing a baseline is not only necessary for equipment readings. Establishing a physical baseline is also useful. Specifically every aspect and angle of an area under study should be recorded, and then continue to be physically monitored (by CCTV and/or video camera) throughout the entire event. This is not only useful during subsequent analysis – tracking visual clues for anomalous experiences – but can be useful in the event of claims of kinetic events.

### Establishing Parity between Equipment

Paired models of equipment used to establish a positional baseline, or those which would be used across locations in tandem with others, suffer from the need to establish parity between the two, or measure the deviation. This method calls for equipment use on a non-comparative basis – they are assigned to areas and are compared to individual experience, rather than to one another. As such, testing for parity is not important in this method.

### Percipients and Baselines

An experience baseline can be usefully employed. There is little doubt that knowledge of previous reported events can guide the perception of individual percipients. Knowledge of previous events is important to allow percipients to seek natural, xenonormal causes for previous reports. However this necessary knowledge itself may impact on the perceptory abilities of percipients. As such an experience baseline can be established during the first investigation event, where percipients do not have knowledge of previous accounts. This allows a picture to be built of what ambiguous stimuli and anomalous events are likely to be perceived, without the confounding variable of this knowledge. This leads to practical necessities such as those with knowledge of previous events not being allocated to – or even leading, to avoid experimenter effects – percipient teams. Similarly, once this baseline has been established the composition of percipient teams should remain the same.

The exact time of percipient sessions should also remain constant. Whilst other events during the investigation may vary these should stay the same, operationally leading to subtle shifts in the exact starting and ending time of investigations in the same location.

Whilst in percipient sessions, percipients are instructed to report any ambiguous stimuli, anomalous experiences and any potential causes for anomalous experiences. States of attentiveness are systematically varied across percipient sessions – in silence, conversation and in engaging activity. This is primarily to recognise that anomalous events are experienced in different states of attentiveness (and this might have an impact on the perception of ambiguous stimuli) but also to counter fatigue in percipients.

## Xenonormal Events

Standardised procedures over a three-year period have informed the categories of xenonormal events that may be perceived during an investigation. As mentioned previously, investigations focus on uncovering the xenonormal. As such, techniques and tools are specifically used to monitor possible xenonormal events.

These include:

| Xenonormal/Anomalous Event      | Monitoring Method   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Visual events                   | All participants, their line of sight, and all areas of study will be monitored by CCTV and video cameras |
| Tactile events                  |   |
| Kinetic events                  |   |
| Auditory events                 | All areas will be monitored by CCTV and audio recorders will be placed across the location                |
| Unusual feelings and sensations | Impossible to objectively monitor* (however locations will be monitored for EIFs, CO and Infrasound)      |
| Hot/cold sensation              | Static temperature data loggers and hotwire anemometers   |
| Extra-sensory impressions       | Impossible to objectively monitor*  |

\* Individual difference scales may also inform such attributions.

## Xenonormal Monitoring Tools and Methods

All tools and methods have been stripped back to those useful for objectively identifying the cause of potential anomalous events. This section will consider the rationale of the use of such tools and methods.

### Video and CCTV: Objective Physical Recording

Objectively recording a physical environment typically justifies the use of camcorders and stills cameras. One theory of physical monitoring is to assess whether 'ghosts' can be physically recorded, as opposed to being subjectively experienced. The result of this assumption-led approach is the time-costly analysis of video footage and stills photographs to observe anything 'unusual'. A rational perspective suggests that these methods are inappropriate. Three years of many hours of recording – assiduously analysed after the event – and many thousands of photographs taken have resulted in almost no footage or photographs that cannot be accounted for as natural.

Where 'unusual' evidence emerges it typically takes analysts with an in-depth knowledge of photography and videography to uncover the natural or technical causes presented in the more unusual cases. Where hundreds of hours of footage and many thousands of photographs have resulted in nothing that cannot be explained – coupled with the practice itself being pseudo-scientific and assumption-led – it is clear these methods cannot be justified. Further, the time used to employ these methods can be much more effectively spent pursuing the xenonormal.

Often investigators will try to cover as much ground as possible by allocating one video camera per room, this is based on the idea of wanting to effectively use scarce resources to maximise the chance of 'catching a ghost'. This is another example of an assumption-led method that sacrifices the chances of being able to find xenonormal explanations.

Specifically, where one video camera records a room of four or more experiences experience shows that there is a very slim chance of the video camera being in the correct position to 'show' the area where an experience is taking place; more commonly the investigators reaction is recorded.

The xenonormal method of trying to objectively verify experiences – to assess them for objective or subjective cause – leads to the necessity of a minimum of three or four video cameras (one being CCTV) in each room where experiences are positioned.

The 'baseline' of the physical environment can be important for some 'experiences', particularly where they require knowledge of the original positioning of items (which may be claimed to move) and the location of anything physical that might explain an unusual experience after the event. This creates the only justifiable use for stills photographs – painstaking physical baselining, rather than 'attempting to photograph ghosts'.

### Audio Recording

Audio recording is often confined to EVP and the audio function of video cameras. The primary flaw in recording sound to subsequently review is the likelihood of ambiguous noises occurring. Ambiguous noises may be caused, for example, by people moving through a building, internal physical functions of the recorder (be it audio or video/audio) or even by the Auto Gain Circuit of the audio or video/audio unit. A common operational flaw of tracking auditory phenomena is insufficient recording devices.

This method calls for a quantity of numbered audio recorders in different areas throughout the location, so auditory phenomena can be tracked to source and analysed as a closer event.

### Measuring Experience Inducing Fields (EIFs)

The work of Townsend and Braithwaite's Magnetic Anomaly Detection System (MADS) project has seen evidence of the role of EIFs enter peer-reviewed publications. The developers postulate that such EIFs may be a major factor in a small number of haunting cases. There are myriad potential causes for such fields. Though natural geomagnetics can conceivably produce natural EIFs, in practice it is more likely to be caused by the movement or vibration of materials with high magnetic permeability.

The research has demonstrated that weak, low frequency, complex magnetic fields can affect the brain in such a way as to cause hallucinations that may contribute to hauntings, in the right context. The specific fields may affect up to 30% of the population and occur where subjects are exposed for upwards of twenty minutes to extremely low frequency magnetic fields. The magnetic field frequency may be of 0.1 to 30 Hz and the amplitude of 100 to 5000 nT. Sampling is needed at the rate of one hundred and twenty per second, being more than twice mains frequency (Nyquist criterion), so that it can be eliminated, being a common ambient field in buildings.

Most electromagnetic field meters are calibrated to measure AC fields whilst even meters specifically designed to exclude AC fields are insufficiently sensitively collaborated to measure EIFs. Crucially, they do not tell you the relative contributions of different frequencies. The Spectran NF Professional series is the only known 'off the shelf' meter than performs spectrum analysis. Whilst EIFs can occur at 0.1 to 30 Hz, the Spectran NF5010 can only measure the majority of EIFs, at 1 to 30 Hz.

Paired Spectran NF5010 units data log to laptops, as the thirty six thousand data points logged on the average investigation cannot be internally stored. One unit is positioned in the Experiencer 'Active' Area and one in the Experiencer 'Control' Area to allow comparison. As EIFs are likely to be a factor in a small number of locations the units are used to provide a cursory indication of this factor. Where this factor is identified a specific investigation would utilise a hired MADS unit to measure with greater accuracy.

### Measuring Infrasound

Infrasound is sound (typically) inaudible to the human ear due to its low frequency (specifically, lower than 20 Hz). Tandy and subsequent experimenters hypothesised that a certain frequency – typically cited at 18.9 Hz – it could be responsible for misattributed haunting phenomena. It has long been known that infrasound can cause unusual sensations (such as nausea and a sense of unease); and we already know that in the right context, witnesses will interpret ambiguous stimuli as anomalous events.

The infrasound theory further purports that visual disturbances and even hallucination can be caused by oscillations of the eyeball at this frequency. Whilst current evidence does not seem to support this latter assertion it should be noted that research into infrasound is ongoing. Also, the less controversial ambiguous sensations caused by infrasound are worthy of measuring as potential factors in themselves; although infrasound is estimated to be a factor in a small number of cases. However it should be noted that the cause of particular instances of infrasound could also be the cause of EIFs so, as such, neither should be measured in isolation in case of this confounding variable.

This method hopes soon to incorporate the use of Infrasound Measuring Equipment, currently being developed by academics at the forefront of infrasound research.

### Measuring Carbon Monoxide Levels

CO poisoning is another possible cause of misattributed haunting experience, although possibly less likely in any individual case than EIFs or Infrasound. At lower levels CO can cause unusual sensations (such as nausea, confusion, impaired hearing and vision) and at more dangerous levels can cause hallucinations. CO data loggers are used in both Percipient 'Active' Areas and Percipient 'Control' Areas to rule out this theoretically possible but practically unlikely cause of ambiguous sensations that can be attributed to paranormal events.

### Measuring Individual Differences

PSI's three-year standardised investigations tracked individual 'paranormal belief' and 'perception of context'. Results suggested that these played a role in reporting possible paranormal events. Feelings at the moment were also tracked but were not demonstrated to impact on reporting rates.

A correlation emerged between reporting of subjective experiences and level of paranormal belief. Whilst the nature of correlations is to be open to interpretation either way, the most likely explanation would seem to be those of a higher belief are more likely to attend to ambiguous events and attribute them as anomalous. Similarly, there was a less clear correlation between initial perception of 'spooky' context and rates of experience reporting. Again a more likely explanation is that if an environment is perceived to be conducive to experiences, ambiguous events are more likely to be attended to and attributed as anomalous. It should be noted that individual difference data should be treated with great caution, but in individual cases may shed light on the nature of a subjective experience.

### Measuring Perceived Temperature Fluctuation

The perception of increase or decrease in temperature was found by PSI's three year study to be a common anomalous report, and is anecdotally held to be a common 'symptom' of haunting experience.

Perception of change in temperature can be an endogenous or exogenous experience – this is, it can be an internal physiological event or an objective variation in temperature or draught. This method calls for the distinction between such subjective and objective events, and attempting to find natural causes for objective events.

This method uses temperature data loggers to track variation in temperature and hotwire anemometers to track draughts.

For all the simplicity of measuring temperature, these are tools so often used inappropriately by paranormal investigators. Various theories exist suggesting that temperature fluctuations are linked to paranormal experience. This assumption-led theory has no theoretical or evidential (beyond anecdotal) basis. However most of the theories (and indeed the xenonormal causes for experiences this method is concerned with) call for the highly localised measurement of temperature fluctuation. As noted previously, establishing a baseline is crucial here. As such, moving temperature gauges instantly compromises your baseline; by moving a temperature gauge to a different area (where an experience is being had) any data as to the previous temperature is lost. As temperature fluctuations linked to experiences are highly time sensitive this rules out the use of non-data logging gauges. If temperature is only measured occasionally, a continuous baseline (from which to measure deviations) cannot be established. Non-contact (infrared, thermogun-style) measures are also inappropriate, as these do not measure ambient temperature, only surface temperature of a target; additionally because of this functionality, a baseline cannot be reliably established.

The traditional limitations of data loggers were their insensitivity: being slightly shielded and only suitable for logging every ten seconds (clearly inappropriate for time sensitive experiences). This method uses a new brand of thermocouple data logger than logs every second, which is clearly the least worst option. However measurements are still localised and the data loggers should not be moved, so as to preserve their baseline. The imperfect solution is to allocate a data logger to every experiencer, and ensure the experiencer does not move away from the data logger during percipient sessions.

The 'wind chill' effect of draughts do not objectively vary temperature, but merely provide a cooling effect to the skin. The unfortunate result is that temperature gauges are useless for measuring draughts. Inexpensive 'vein' style anemometers are inappropriate for the sensitive measurement of draughts, due to the minimum speed needed to rotate the vein and the dependence on the correct angle of the vein. Hotwire anemometers of a higher sensitivity largely overcome these flaws. However a meaningful baseline cannot be accurately established with handheld meters. As such a handheld anemometer which attempts to record readings and establish a baseline after the event is the least worst option.

## 6. Data Analysis

Data gathered should be analysed in line with the principles of scientific enquiry and in line with stated hypotheses.

| Data Type                                | Treatment   |
|--|---|
| Individual differences                   | Questionnaires to be aggregated.<br><i>Added to the reports to draw conclusions based on individual differences.</i>  |
| Control condition CCTV footage and sound | 1) At the time observation and inclusion in Timed Phenomena Reports.<br>2) Subsequent monitoring of variations in sound and movement<br><i>In both cases reports should be timed to (a) provide evidence during Timed Report Analysis and (b) provide a Control Condition Report.</i> |
| Temperature fluctuation                  | Tracking reported changes in Timed Phenomena Reports. Comparing data logger and anemometer outputs to drawn conclusions on cause.<br><i>See Timed Reports (below)</i>   |
| EM field                                 | Comparison of results over the three investigations.  |
| Carbon Monoxide                          | Results should be used to provide a <i>Monitoring Report of the location, drawing conclusions as to whether factors could lead to general reports.</i>  |
| Infrasound                               |   |
| Sound recordings                         |   |
| CCTV experimental recordings             | Tracking recorded sounds and noises compared to Timed Phenomena Reports.<br><i>Visual and auditory findings will be used as a track-back from Times Phenomena Reports to provide evidence to analyse experiences.</i>   |
| Camcorder experimental recordings        |   |
| Stills camera images                     |   |

### Assumptions in Data Analysis

Special consideration shall be given to hypothesis that original and subsequent haunting experience shall be caused by xenonormal factors. Scientific principles dictate that special consideration is given to the most likely explanation.

### Control Reports

- A report of any visual and sound fluctuations in the Control Areas will be provided. This will comprise:
- Timed reports made by CCTV Monitors, along with appropriate footage.
  - An automated report, with appropriate footage, of any visual or sound fluctuations throughout the course of all investigations.

These reports will act as evidence to support any experiences reported in Experimental Areas, for example where a noise is heard coming from the Control Area and can be thus be identified.

These reports will also make conclusions as to any events that might have been interpreted as usual had percipients been there to perceive. As such a comparison shall be made between the Control (both with and without previous reports) and Active areas, and an assessment made of any differences. This report will focus on the differences between different types of areas, and whether haunting triggers exist independently of peoples' experience.

### Monitoring Report

- An examination of the graphed output of the following data logged instruments shall be made:
- Experience Inducing Fields
  - Infrasound
  - Carbon Monoxide

Assessments will be made based on the graphs and individual data points as to whether any fluctuations would be sufficient to cause 'haunt experiences'. A more dedicated use of this technology would be needed to compare fluctuations with individual accounts, so general conclusions on the possibility of the link with haunt experiences will be made.

Should a location find a strong propensity for such factors to cause haunt experiences, a further investigation will be planned and dedicated to the study of the factor in question.

**Extraenous Factors Report**

A detailed report will be produced after each investigation about generally identified EFs, along with specific timed EFs identified by auditors, monitors or percipients. This report will input into the analysis of the Timed Phenomena Reports.

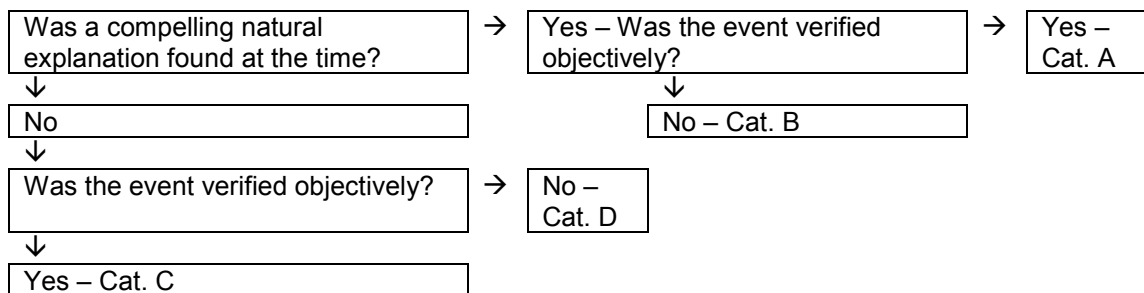
**Timed Phenomena Reports**

Following each investigation event all notes from percipient groups are transcribed and collected in a tabular format.

Reports will be analysed by the CCTV analyst, photo analyst, Camcorder analysts and Sound analyst who will attempt to find objective evidence for each report. Each report will also be considered against the EF and Control reports.

Reports will then be subdivided into Objective and Subjective reports.

**Evidential Categories**



**Treatment of Evidential Categories:**

- Category A – Objective Xenonormal – strong evidence for a normal explanation. Cause should be noted in analysis.
- Category B – Compelling Xenonormal – fairly strong evidence for a normal explanation. Cause should be noted in analysis, with suggestions for how evidence could better be captured.
- Category C – Unexplained Xenonormal – probably good evidence for a normal explanation. Attempt to recreate events during Analysis Investigation and note findings in report.
- Category D – Insufficient Information. Attempt to recreate events during Analysis Investigation and note findings in report. If a compelling explanation cannot be found, flag up in the report as an area needing further research.

Where Category D events take place and further need for research is identified, the current method will be discarded and a Category D Investigation be designed specifically against the phenomena in question.

## 7. Statement of Ethics

Ethical conduct is of great importance when conducting research, especially as human participants are involved and individual's properties are often the setting. Below are the basic ethical tenets applied to each aspect of investigating.

### Doing no harm

This relates to not putting participants at risk of undue physical, emotional or psychological harm during an investigation, and being insured against public liability. Participants are chosen via a rigorous selection and training procedure that ensures they are, amongst other things, of a suitable mindset to participate.

PSI carries out risk assessments in conjunction with venues, and all relevant equipment is PAT tested. PSI has an obligation to assess all experimental methods for harmful impact upon participants, and to provide post-investigation and post-experiment support to participants.

The ethical principle of doing no harm also extends to potential harm to the living- or working- environment of venue owners and workers. So-called 'spirit communication tools' are not used, being both scientifically unproven and generating the serious risk of an exacerbated perception of 'haunting' by clients. Further, the use of unproven tools and methods to 'gather paranormal evidence' is potentially harmful and are thus not utilised.

Similarly, 'paranormal conclusions' are not drawn under this method; such an approach would be equally unscientific and risks the exacerbated perception of 'haunting' by clients. Post investigation support is always made available to venue owners or managers.

### Consent

No person who is deemed unfit to give informed consent may participate.

All individuals participate with informed consent and no individuals under the age of 18 are permitted to participate in PSI investigations. Similarly, investigations always operate with the informed consent of venue owners or managers, including outdoors locations investigated.

### Deception

All participants are fully briefed, trained and are aware of all research objectives. For methodological reasons, during Baseline Investigations the nature of previous accounts of experiences, including which rooms under investigation have or do not have previous accounts, are withheld from recipients.

Venue owners or managers are made fully aware of all methods used during the

investigation. Similarly the purpose of PSI investigations are made clear to venue owners or managers.

### Freedom to withdraw

All participants are free to withdraw at any time. Further, venue owners have the right to halt any investigations at any time. Venue owners are made aware of this right prior to the investigation.

### Confidentiality

All evidence and information gathered on investigations is held in confidence within the organisation where requested or more commonly where agreed by experimenters. It is frequently deemed unsuitable for the sum total of evidence gathered to be made publicly available. Confidentiality applies to working with the mass media.

Whilst the experience of individual participants is not kept confidential, except where otherwise requested, all participants names are removed.

For these purposes the organisation is defined as constrained to trained team members, and consultants associated with PSI to whom confidentiality is occasionally extended.

### Debriefing

All participants are fully debriefed and offload experiences at the end of investigations, to ensure they leave the in the same psychological state in which they arrived. PSI has follow up procedures should participants need to discuss any issues after an investigation.

### Reporting research

PSI has a duty to take due care in any reporting of results, especially to the media. PSI takes the responsibility as being seen as 'representing' the field very seriously.

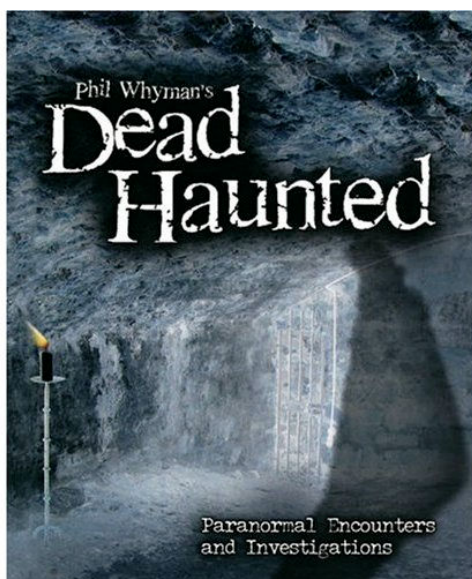
PSI never sensationalises evidence or vies for attention. PSI never makes unscientific claims, including asserting that a property is 'haunted', or 'not haunted'.

### Treatment of venues and owners

All venues and owners are treated with respect at all times. PSI always shares results with venues, abides by their wishes and continues contact for as long as venues and owners need.

As mentioned previously, ethical responsibility extends to not conducting investigations in any way which might cause a venue to feel any 'presence' they feel has been exacerbated. PSI never performs 'clearances', but can refer venue owners to suitable individuals or groups should they request that information. PSI has special and separate ethical procedures for dealing with private homes and families.

## Book Review: Dead Haunted



Phil Whyman's *Dead Haunted – Paranormal Encounters and Investigations*. Whyman, P., 2007. New Holland Publishers. pp.128. ISBN: 978 1 84537 536 2

Reviewed by Trystan Swale, B.A.

Former Most Haunted cast member Phil Whyman's first venture into the book world is a glossy hardback which, according to the blurb, offers an 'indispensable guide to the paranormal', detailing 'everything you need to know about setting up your own investigation'.

'Phil Whyman's *Dead Haunted*' can be split by the reader into three distinct parts, the first four chapters outlining basic paranormal theory.

Chapter one, 'Ghosts and their attributes' explores the different types of anomalous experiences commonly considered to be indicative of a ghost. These include full and partial manifestations, auditory phenomena, cold spots and unusual smells. Photographic orbs are also discussed, although it is through curious logic that the author concludes one percent of these do not have their origins within known reason. He notes the prevalence of orb photographs from haunted locations, neglecting the known causes (see [www.theorbzone.com](http://www.theorbzone.com) for further details) and the numerous images from non-haunted locations. Chapter two, 'Poltergeists', explores perceived unseen forces which may be able to influence inanimate objects. Whyman follows standard paranormal theory, suggesting poltergeists may be explained by spirits or psychokinetic activity on behalf of a pubescent child.

Discussion of spirit continues within chapter three, 'N' is for 'nasty'. This is an exploration of the Ouija board, built around an anecdotal tale from the experiences of the author's mother. Without consideration of ideomotor action or other psychological influence, Whyman states talking boards have the power to unleash malevolent, hard to banish entities or spirits. Chapter four, 'Some more theories' discusses three hypotheses which may explain some, if not all, ghosts. The most curious of these is the idea that a relaxed human mind may be able to view beings from another dimension. Whyman draws no conclusions as to the validity of this possibility, nor does he detail research which suggests certain magnetic fields can affect the brain. However, he draws upon his own experience to anecdotally suggest some alleged poltergeist activity may be the result of seismic activity.

Chapters five to seven offer a straightforward outline of the investigation process. 'Investigation equipment', chapter five, details the objects commonly used during vigils, from torches to Gauss meters. No surprises are included within this inventory and Whyman is sensibly guarded when he observes the unproven worth of the equipment. An exploration of the disputed powers held by 'Mediums and psychics' forms the basis of chapter six, based largely around the anecdotal testimony of Bassetlaw Ghost Research Group medium Dave Wharmby.

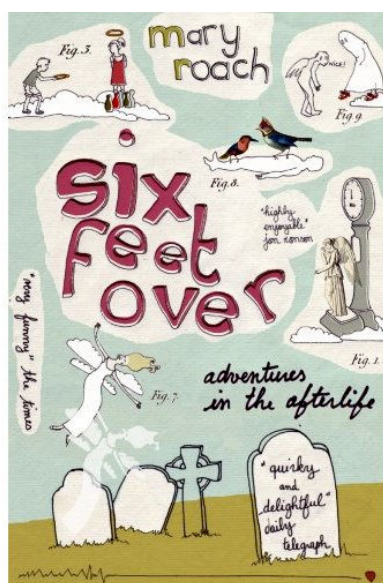
The nitty gritty of organising, structuring and embarking upon a vigil is finally examined within the seventh chapter, appropriately entitled 'Conducting an investigation'. Heavy focus is placed upon the practical details of investigation rules, team size, sound recording and the means by which kinetic (trigger object) experimentation can be conducted. The demonstrated practice seems par for the bulk of the investigative community, as does the comparatively small section on witness interaction and interviews. A witness questionnaire is notable for the inclusion of loaded questions into the use of talking boards, whilst no mention at all is made of the need for confidentiality and witness aftercare.

The final three chapters are given over to investigation reports and reflections. Chapter eight chronicles six of Whyman's own overnight stays at five separate locations. In response to the anomalous events reported from each investigation, Whyman offers extremely limited analyses.

For example, a mist photographed at Woodchester Mansion is ruled out as being nothing more than breath on an admittedly cold night. The reasoning offered is that subsequent experimentation with photos of breath failed to produce a similar result. The reader is left unsure as to whether conditions were identical at the time of this attempted replication. Chapter nine, 'Other paranormal experiences' is given over to first hand witness contributions from a range of lesser known locations including hotels, deserted airfields, roads and private residences. No analysis is offered of the claims offered by the writers, leaving the door open for a paranormal interpretation. Finally, in a disjointed feeling chapter ten, Whyman reflects upon his 'Top 10 favourite haunted places'. Here he provides a brief outline of the history and alleged paranormal happenings at well known locations including the Tower of London, Borley Rectory and the Red Lion, Avebury.

With its author's celebrity status, clear use of English, glossy pages and effect laden photographs, 'Phil Whyman's Dead Haunted' will be of most appeal to newcomers in the investigative field who have been influenced by the glut of paranormal related television shows in the UK. Whilst a useful introduction to these parties, the more experienced investigator may be frustrated by the lack of scrutiny and analysis given to the strange events experienced by the author and his fellow contributors.

## Book Review: Six Feet Over



Six Feet Over – Adventures in the Afterlife.  
Roach, M., 2008. Canongate.  
pp.300. ISBN: 978 1 84767 080 9

Reviewed by Trystan Swale B.A.

Originally published in the USA as 'Spook – Science Tackles the Afterlife' it has taken three years for Mary Roach's second book to achieve mass market paperback status. It seems a logical progression from the columnist's debut 'Stiff', in which the various uses of human corpses are detailed, to explore the scientific evidence for an alleged afterlife.

Roach begins her quest in India, spending time with Dr Kiri Rawat on the hunt for reincarnated children. A colleague of American professor and reincarnation theorist Ian Stevenson, Rawat is a colourful figure who hurries the author from case to case. Rather than being sucked in by the frenzy surrounding alleged reincarnation cases within India, Roach is intelligent and sceptical enough to stand back. She observes the subject's strong linkage with the Hindu religion – noting its glaring absence in non-Hindu areas - and the anecdotal weaknesses of past life testimony. For instance, the abundance of people who claim to have spent their former life as Gandhi exceeds the expected solitary individual.

From Asia, Roach heads back to America to meet professor Gerry Nahum, a man obsessed with a quest to discover the weight of the human soul as it leaves the body. It seems that he wasn't the first to undertake such a logically flawed task (of course, there is no proof of the existence of the soul); surgeon Duncan Macdougall having previously used a 'healthy' supply of dying tuberculosis patients as his subjects.

Mediumship is next for the author's scrutiny. Roach gets her hands on some vomit encrusting cloth doubling as ectoplasm before observing mediums undergoing laboratory testing. As if not to allow her scepticism to shroud her judgment Roach also enrolls for a short course in mediumship, although she learns more about cold reading techniques and the credulity of her colleagues as opposed to contacting the dead.

From the psychics to the ghost hunters, Roach provides a brief history of Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) before visiting two of paranormal research's most notable figures: Michael Persinger and Vic Tandy. She provides the reader with a brief outline of the former's research into electromagnetic stimulation of the brain, and the latter's experimentation with infrasound. Both may be the cause of some witness reports of ghosts, the author having her own strange experience whilst posing as a subject for Persinger. 'Six Feet Over' concludes with a visit to the lab of Bruce Greyson who artificially induces near death, out of body experiences on willing subjects. His aim is to see whether these experiencers genuinely leave their body by correctly relaying the identity and colour of an image shown on a computer screen facing the ceiling. Unsurprisingly, there have been less than thirty participants willing to come forward for Greyson with none so far having produced anything resembling success.

'Six Feet Over' is bound to draw comparisons to 'Will Storr versus the Supernatural' as both authors are seeking evidence of survival after death. Both are strong, entertaining writers, yet Roach comes over as the more critical and informed. From the opening pages Roach demonstrates enough healthy scepticism and openness to science to understand that solid evidence for an afterlife is unlikely to be forthcoming. Like Storr, Roach possesses the gift of being able to animate the characters she meets on her journey, but she is unwittingly kinder, being more sympathetic to these individuals. Roach's experiences of mediumship classes and embarrassing moments with Persinger and Tandy leave the reader in no doubt about the book's endearing message: as humans we can be easily sucked into following a whim and making erroneous conclusions.

## Overview of Other Books on Release

**The Penguin Book of Ghosts.** Westwood, J. & Simpson, J. 2008: Penguin Books, London. £14,99 (hbk), 456pp.+xii ISBN: 978-1-846-14101-0

In the rather saturated field of 'ghost books' readers expect something rather different, a twist of sorts, in the publications trying to make their mark today.

Regrettably *The Penguin Book of Ghosts* could almost have been written in any decade of the last one hundred years.

This well-written compendium of ghost stories – organised alphabetically by UK county – would have stood out twenty years ago, but today seems old-fashioned.

In fairness the authors are folklorists, so in a way the historical ghost story is to be expected. However slight disappointment is felt that the folkloric discipline has not been used here – as it has in other places – to add value to current thinking on hauntings.

**Discarded Science: Ideas that seemed good at the time.** Grant, J. 2007: Facts, Figures & Fun, Surrey. £9,99 (hbk), 336pp ISBN: 1-904332-49-8.

*Discarded Science* is a fun but remarkably detailed examination of – as it says in the tin – scientific theories and laws of the past that have been displaced or superseded.

Apart from a direct nod to some of the sillier 'Aliens Among Us' theories, one might ask why this book may be of interest to paranormal enthusiasts.

Some paranormalists seem to have a complex that science is 'out to discredit them' or that 'science is not advanced enough for them'. Casually reading *Discarded Science* leads numerous moments of epiphany; the realisation that the precise-same pseudo-scientific logic used to sustain many paranormal theories is the same as the discarded science of decades and centuries past. Instructive reading for anyone who has ever used the term 'paradigm change' in relation to psychical research.

**Adventures in Paranormal Investigation.** Nickell, J. 2007: University Press of Kentucky, Kentucky. \$29,95 (hbk), 292pp +x. ISBN: 978-0-8131-2467-4.

Those of us who are familiar with books in this field – but not familiar with Joe Nickell – could be forgiven for wearily expecting yet another

American paranormal investigator on a trip to the edge of sanity (and typically not back again).

However those (alas not including myself) who trouble themselves to read the endorsement from Michael Shermer on the back cover would know to expect a highly rational and thoughtful delve into almost every possible aspect of the paranormal.

Perhaps a little too case applied – and perhaps a little too wide-ranging for the average reader – nevertheless Nickell's is the surprise winner of the most worthy, rational book reviewed in this edition.

**An Introduction to Parapsychology (Fifth Edition).** Irwin, H. J. & Watt, C. A. 2007: McFarland & Co., Inc., North Carolina. \$39,95 (pbk), 312pp +viii. ISBN 978-0-7864-3059-8.

Every couple of years a new, basic academic treatment – or revision of an older, basic academic treatment – of the subject of parapsychology emerges. As a caveat, when we use parapsychology in this context we mean the scholarly pursuit of scientific knowledge, rather than the ravings of someone who achieved a certificate in 'parapsychology with angel studies' online.

Each new or revised treatment seems to present the same old mix of theoretical and evidential overview of the subject matter, tempered with some of the more interesting recent findings. The fifth edition of *An Introduction to Parapsychology* is no exception, so if you have not read one of these before please get out there and buy a copy!

**Orbs, Energy and Mists: Secrets of the Ancients.** Muir, P. £19,85 (pbk) or £4,99 (download), 165pp.

For all the excitement the field of orb study has caused over the last decade there are surprisingly few books dedicated to the subject. *Orbs, Energy and Mists* joins the ranks of those that warp any form of evidence beyond any rational sense and embark on a voyage of groundless speculation.

The book's conclusion advises you to "make of it what you will"; kindling would be my recommendation.

# How to contribute to this journal



Any paranormal investigator, psychical researcher or academic is welcome to make a submission to the Journal of Investigative Psychical Research. Being published in this journal is an opportunity for your ideas and research to influence hundreds of people interested in the paranormal, many of which are researchers.

We are also looking for independent academics to join our external peer-review panel.

Submissions to the journal typically fall into one of the following categories:

- Letter
- Book Review
- Research Note
- Article

## Writing a letter:

Letters can be written in a personal style.

Letters should either:

- Be of a subject of interest to readers.
- Provide comments on research published in this journal.

Letters should be fewer than 1500 words.

## Writing a book review:

A book review should concern a book that is recent and would be of interest to those engaged in paranormal investigation or research.

Book reviews should be in the impersonal style. Book reviews should first introduce the book, then provide a summary of contents, and then provide an analysis of the work.

Book reviews should be fewer than 1500 words.

## Writing a research note:

Research notes should represent original or cutting edge research that is not complete, but for some reason is suitable for publication.

Research notes should be written in an academic style where possible (see below).

Research notes should be fewer than 2500 words.

## Writing a journal article:

A journal article should report experimental research or be an original non-experimental review article.

Journal articles should be written in an academic style where possible (see below).

Journal articles should be between 3000-9000 words in length.

## Writing in an academic style:

An academic style should apply, where possible, to all research notes and articles.

Some notes on achieving an academic style:

- Style should be impersonal.
- Arguments should be logically structured and present both sides of the story.
- Assertions should, where possible, be referenced and conform to the Harvard system.
- Submissions should include: an abstract, introduction, method (where relevant), results (where relevant) and discussion and implications.

For more information on writing in academic style, please visit <http://www.apastyle.org/>

## What happens to submissions?

Submissions are first considered by the Journal Editors in terms of relevance to the Journal's stated research objective.

If submissions are relevant and written in an appropriate style, they are peer-reviewed by two in-house reviewers.

The process of peer reviewing ensures that submissions are logically structured and argued, and that information is accurate and valid.

You may be provided with feedback on how to improve your submission, which you should then resubmit for peer-review.

This is not a lengthy process and your submission should be published in the following edition of the Journal.

## Submitting an abstract:

If you are unsure if your potential submission is suitable for publication, you may wish to submit an 'abstract'.

An abstract is a very brief summary of 120-250 words that covers your aims, methods, results and conclusions.

Once an abstract is received the Journal Editors can let you know whether the article is suitable, in principle, for submission.

