

The Bulletin of the
Parapsychological
Association

Volume 8
Issue 2

8.2

Mindfield

The
PA-AAAS
Issue

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From the Editor's Desk

The Bulletin of the
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| by ETZEL CARDEÑA,
CERCAP, Lund University

The major subject in this issue of *Mindfield* is the historical acceptance in 1969 of the PA as an affiliate of the AAAS, the world's largest scientific association and publisher of *Science*. Gerd Hövelmann provides a context of this event and followed by the original full report by the person who more than anyone spearheaded this achievement: E. Douglas Dean. I have left Dean's report untouched, idio-

syncrasies (e.g., his self-references in the third person) and all, for historical reasons. The PA's Executive Director, Annalisa Ventola, then provides a comprehensive historical account of the various AAAS meetings to which the PA has contributed. I cannot state enough how important it is that solid psi research and theory continue to be presented in mainstream forums and journals, and hope that readers of *Mindfield* will take this as an invitation to submit proposals to AAAS meetings. Annalisa mentions in passing the shameful accusation by Wheeler against Rhine which the former (sort of) retracted, and which I covered in some length in a previous issue of *Mindfield* (Cardena, 2014).

In his column, PA's President Chris Roe discusses the potential replicability problem in parapsychology. I am in full

agreement with his analysis that the replicability problem in parapsychology is no worse than that in psychology, except that, of course we could not know that psychology (or other disciplines') experiments could not be replicated often because the journals did not encourage or publish "mere" replication studies, whereas parapsychology has published for decades an enormous amount of successful or failed replications. A recent re-analysis (Gilbert, King, Pettigrew, & Wilson, 2016) suggests that the original Open Science Collaboration paper overestimated the problem of lack of replicability in social psychology, partly because many of the replications were not close at all. To give a couple of examples mentioned by Gilbert and collaborators, the Open Science Collaboration "replications" included

The major subject in this issue of Mindfield is the historical acceptance in 1969 of the PA as an affiliate of the AAAS, the world's largest scientific association and publisher of Science. [...] I cannot state enough how important it is that solid psi research and theory continue to be presented in mainstream forums and journals [...]

investigating the stereotypes of African Americans held by Americans with a sample of Italians, or concluding that asking Americans about the consequences of a honeymoon is similar to asking Israelis about the consequences of military service! Gilbert et al. found that when the authors of the original studies estimated that the new replications were similar to their original studies, the rate of replication

was much higher, which has an almost exact parallel in the analysis of close replications of ganzfeld experiments conducted by Bem, Palmer, and Broughton (2001). Furthermore, as Chris's column mentions and Barrett (2015) has also pointed out, lack of perfect replicability is exactly what one should expect in psychology (and parapsychology, I would add), in which context is so important, and many complex variables plus a sprinkling of randomness are unavoidable condiments of the experimental recipe. I have a paper (Cardeña, under review) in which I review the literature and do a similar analysis to Chris's with about 10 areas of parapsychology with extant meta-analyses.

In his first contribution to *Mindfield*, Michael Tremmel, the PA student representative, offers a valuable annotated bibliography to basic sources on parapsychology and anomalous psychology, geared to various levels of readers' interest and knowledge. And, as always, Gerd Hövelmann

closes the issue with his list of relevant titles in non-specialized journals, preceded by his tribute to the bibliographic contributions of Rhea White.

The 11th Behind and Beyond the Brain Symposium of the Bial Foundation had *placebo* (the biological and psychological effects of an inert substance or procedure) as its central topic. The symposium started with a keynote speech by Harvard University Professor Irving Kirsch, who has published analyses and a recent book on the very large extent to which the effect of antidepressants can be attributed to a placebo effect. Irv, a close personal friend and co-author, has also had seminal contributions to the literatures on expectancies (expectations) and hypnosis. The following day included various presentations on underlying biological and psychological mechanisms of placebo, including expectations but also previous conditioning of an inert substance or procedure with an active one. There were

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presentations on the neurophysiology and neurochemical systems involved in placebo effects, along with a brilliant presentation by Fabrizio Benedetti on placebo mechanisms across diseases, in which he showed photos and films of the strength of placebo procedures, which can have a major effect on, for instance, the mobility of an injured arm or the physical speed and vigor during a physical challenge.

The following day was dedicated to more specific presentations on the effects of placebo in

medicine (e.g., analgesia), along with some references to relevant hypnosis studies, and concluded with three parallel workshops on placebo and nocebo (the latter refers to deleterious effects of inert substances or procedures, as compared with the positive ones of a placebo).

The third day was the one devoted to parapsychology. It contained a, for me, quite vague presentation of cross-cultural aspects of healing, followed by a much more substantial paper by Jessica Utts on potential direct mental influence on medicine. Stefan Schmidt then discussed his meta-analyses showing small but significant influences of direct mental influence studies, alongside with the potential role of meditation. In the final presentation the physician and science popularizer and psi-friend Larry Dossey unveiled his vision of the central role of consciousness in the universe. The symposium ended with a round-table on the ethics of placebo in medicine, and throughout the symposium there were presentations and posters by previous Bial grant

award recipients. This is my 4th or 5th attendance to the Bial symposia and I am always delighted at the quality of many presentations by top researchers and, even more so, by the extraordinary efficiency and cordiality of everyone at Bial. And a wonderful gift by Bial is that not only will full or summaries of presentations eventually make their way into an edited book, but many of them are already available here https://www.bial.com/pt/fundacao_bial.11/11_simposio.219/programa.223/11_simposio.a544.html

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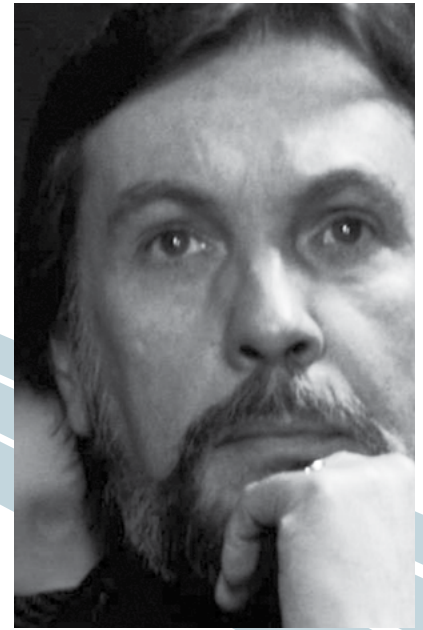
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A Path of Trial and Tribulation: An Introduction to E. Douglas Dean's Report

In the perennial debates about the scientific legitimacy of parapsychological research, the representatives and defenders of this discipline habitually refer to the fact that in 1969 the Parapsychological Association (PA), the international professional association of scientific parapsychologists that was founded in 1957, was recognized and accepted as an Affiliate by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the parent organization of scientific societies in America. After several applications had been rejected in previous years, E. Douglas Dean, the then soon-to-be President of the PA, in 1967 vigorously and skillfully launched a new attempt that finally was blessed with success in 1969.

Dean's Tales of Passion

It had been known for a while (or at least, it had been the subject of half-informed conjecture) that, after all negotiations were completed, Douglas Dean had written an extensive protocol of what had transpired. As Dean mentioned years later (Dean, 1990b), in order to prevent unsubstantiated speculation and gossip, he had immediately sent copies of his report to all current members of the PA. Still – parapsychologists sometimes have short memories – speculation and uncertainty arose with the growing temporal distance from the events of 1969. Also, people apparently had failed to notice or (again) to remember, that Dean had published several short articles and communications in the parapsychological



by GERD H. HÖVELMANN,
Hövelmann Communication

literature describing the final success of the application for AAAS affiliate status (Dean, 1980, 1990a, 1990b). However, the full version was never published as a coherent text. The first part of his two-part report in the *ASPR Newsletter*

(Dean, 1990a) appears to be almost, but not fully identical with the text that, finally, will be published here. Even his 1980 communication to the *Journal of Parapsychology* consisted of sections that Dean had cut from this full report. I will not comment further on this here, but let Dean speak for himself on the pages to follow.

As if Dean's application report was not exciting and impressive enough by itself, his short communication in the *Journal of Parapsychology* (Dean, 1980)¹ and the second part of his 1990 *ASPR Newsletter* report (Dean, 1990b) added some astonishing, maybe even shocking, bits of information to part 1 of the report and to the full original text published below. That second part of the report in the *ASPR Newsletter* added further information on details of the AAAS procedures and the individuals involved, including anthropologist Margaret Mead and several AAAS officials. Dean mentions, for instance, the fact that Mead was elected President of the AAAS a few years afterward, which shows that her brave speaking up in favor of parapsychology had not

¹ A second commentary in the same issue of the *Journal of Parapsychology* had almost no bearing on parapsychology's AAAS affiliation (Mackenzie & Mackenzie, 1980).

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damaged her chances of election success in that elite association.

However, much more amazing and thoroughly irritating is what happened inside the PA after the AAAS happily, but unexpectedly, had invited the Parapsychological Association to join their ranks. After the AAAS's decision to let the parapsychologists into their sanctum, Dean reports (1990b), recognizably shocked, about the PA Council:

[S]ome could not take it. A meeting of the PA Council was held and two of the seven members proposed a motion for

the PA to resign the AAAS – just weeks after we had obtained the affiliation we had tried for nearly seven years to get! The sociology of this is so bizarre that I, as a chemist, am not competent to say anything except that it was a small group of dedicated research workers, ridiculed, unable to get grants, isolated, thought of as insane, but then suddenly welcomed into one of the largest scientific organizations in the world. Fortunately, five of the seven PA members voted down the motion to resign (p. 19).

As it happened, many years later, in the summer of 2012, the original manuscript of Douglas Dean's report unexpectedly "materialized" during the PA Convention in Durham, North Carolina. On that occasion, the late Robert Van de Castle, psychologist and dream researcher, – in late fulfillment of a wish and bequest of Douglas Dean – handed over the document, in my presence (I was the PA Vice President at the time), to PA Executive Director Annalisa Ventola with the request to find a proper way to eventually publish the "only truly authentic" copy of Dean's manuscript.

Meanwhile, the PA Board of Directors decided to convey the exclusive rights for publication in English to *Mindfield*, and the

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right of translation and publication in German to the *Zeitschrift für Anomalistik*, of which I am the editor-in-chief. The German translation was published, as stipulated, with my introduction (Hövelmann, 2015) in August of 2015 (Dean, 2015).

A Gentle, Charming, Modest Man

At the time he prepared his report, E. (Eric) Douglas Dean (1916–2001), was employed at the Newark College of Engineering in Newark, NJ. In her obituary, Gertrude Schmeidler (1912–2009) described Dean as “one of parapsychology’s most brilliant innovators” and as “a gentle, charming man, so modest that few in parapsychology knew his accomplishments, or recognized

the profound implications of his research” (Schmeidler, 2001, p. 417)².

Born in the UK (Rock Ferry, Cheshire) he had studied physics and chemistry at the University of Liverpool (B. S., 1937; B. S., 1938; M. S., 1939). In 1951, at the age of 35, Dean moved to the United States where he became a Fellow of the American Electrochemical Society at Princeton University (1954–1959) and Assistant Director of Research at the Parapsychology Foundation afterward. After he quit his job at the Newark College of Engineering, he held various positions in industry. In 1977, he was elected Vice President of the World Federation of Healing. He was also a board member and active in the **Academy of Religion and Psychical Research**. In 1947, he was a Delegate Member of the Quaker Peace Service Council that received the Nobel Peace Prize.

² I first met Douglas Dean at the joint Centenary Conference of the PA and the SPR at Trinity College, Cambridge (UK), in 1982, and on several occasions after that. I am pleased to confirm Schmeidler's characterization.

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The Parapsychological Association
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How it Was Done.

| *by E. DOUGLAS DEAN*

In 1957 the British and in 1958 the American Medical Association voted to make hypnosis research a respectable field of science. Hypnosis has made great advances since then. For a decade and even longer the parapsychologists have yearned for their field to become legitimate; then they



would not be made to feel loss of self-respect, or forced to lose their University positions if they contributed to gaining knowledge in parapsychology. So little is known of human nature and personality and some scientists felt that a study of parapsychology could help our understanding so that they were willing to suffer censure and accusations of fraudulence from their colleagues, until such time as opinion changed. That time is starting here, now, in the U. S. A.

In 1957 the Parapsychological Association (PA) was formed with members from all over the world: this was a first step in creating professionalism in the parapsychological area. The Medical Associations

are not the correct authorities from whom to seek recognition; rather this rests with the Associations for the Advancement of Science (AAAS in the U. S. A.). The AAAS has about 300 affiliated societies composed of all the scientific, medical and engineering societies in the U. S. The delegates, numbering about 530, make up the Council of the AAAS which votes Constitution changes and additions to society affiliations.

After the P. A. had been going the minimum five years in 1963, Dr. Carroll Nash, President, made the first attempt to affiliate with the AAAS but it was rejected. In 1966 Dean promised to try again and was elected P. A. President. His 1967 attempt passed the first hurdle which was recommendation by the AAAS Committee on Affiliation in November. It

contained the statement that the Committee wished to encourage scientific research in parapsychology but not to say that ESP was thereby proven.

However the second hurdle was the Board of Directors of the AAAS meeting on December 26, and here some VIP scientists considered it preposterous that parapsychology be regarded as scientific. So they did not put the affiliation of the PA to the third hurdle—the AAAS Council vote on December 30. A storm of controversy produced a motion by Council that the matter must be brought to a vote, yes or no, in 1968. The Council also officially abolished the AAAS Committee on Affiliations, officially and actually for other reasons. Things looked dark for the P. A.'s chances. Non-scientific people find this action of scientists very hard to understand. Yet in 1968, Sir



Alistair Hardy, President of the SPR, and Fellow of the Royal Society (mainly a society of Nobel prize-winning scientists in England) stated that perhaps 12 of his 100 F. R. S. colleagues believed in ESP; 88 did not accept ESP's existence.

In 1968 Dean became Secretary of the P. A. and submitted another application, this time to the AAAS Committee on Council Affairs. The AAAS President, Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, was favorable to our cause and spoke for us on the committee. Yet he was overridden and the application was voted down at the first hurdle. Furthermore, the criteria for affiliation were to be rewritten for future years, officially for other reasons. Things looked very dark for P. A. affiliation.

In 1969 Dean was elected to the P. A. Council on a tie vote with Dr. John Beloff. Beloff lost on a toss-up. So Dean became Secretary of the PA again. He decided to lay low and not submit in 1969; this was in hope that by removing the pressure the criteria for affiliation would not be changed too adversely for 1970 when the new criteria were to be released. However

In 1968 Dean became Secretary of the P. A. and submitted another application, this time to the AAAS Committee on Council Affairs. The AAAS President, Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, was favorable to our cause and spoke for us on the committee. Yet he was overridden and the application was voted down at the first hurdle.

Dr. R. A. McConnell (Biophysics, Pittsburgh, and first PA President) told Dean that the criteria change was supposed to help the P. A. and that we should try again in 1969. This was a kind of reverse logic but Dean was only too willing, especially as McConnell knew Dr. A. Spillhaus, AAAS President-elect, and chairman of the first committee hurdle, was favorable to us. Dean's decision change was also reverse logic, since a letter came from the Washington AAAS to say that

even if we submitted in 1969 the committee would most probably table the application pending the new criteria due in 1970. Things looked very dark and rough for the P. A.

Nevertheless the P. A. Council backed up the decision to mount another application in 1969, the fourth. These applications are no easy matter. They cost about \$150 each. To each of twelve scientists on the AAAS Committee is sent about 4 ½ pounds of materials. These are reprints of the best, most recent parapsychological research papers, copies of the P. A. constitution and By-laws, and articles in encyclopaedias. Thanks are due to P. A. members who sent in dozens of their valuable papers. Very hard-nosed decisions had to be made on which to include and which to leave out, as this in itself is a test of scientific acumen. Dr. McConnell was extraordinarily helpful here.

In addition, about 20 type-written pages were included in answer to reasons why the P. A. wanted affiliation, whether the P. A. satisfied six procedural matters, and seven points concerning the criteria of affil-



From bottom left: 1. H. Kanthamani, 2. John Freeman, 3. Douglas Dean, 4. not sure, 5. Dorothy Pope, 6. J. B. Rhine, 7. Winnifred Nielsen, 8. Rex Stanford, 9. Sally Rhine Feather, 10. Louisa Rhine, 11. David Rogers, 12. Soji Otani, 13. Jim Carpenter, 14. Cynthia Weaver, 15. Bob Morris, 16. Faye David, 17. not sure, 18. Ramakrishna Rao, 19. Hiroshi Motoyama (photo courtesy of Jim Carpenter).

iation. Results of a poll of P. A. members Dean conducted were included to show that about two-thirds of those replying were AAAS members and nine P. A. members were also AAAS fellows. The membership list showed that two-thirds had a Ph.D. degree. A list of about 50 master's and Ph. D. theses at Universities around the world showed that degrees had been given (by some top-flight Universities) for research in parapsychology. Dr. R. Van de Castle (1970 PA President) was very helpful here. A list

of recent notices of Symposia on Parapsychology, given at the New York Academy of Science, New York University, MIT, UCLA, the A. Psychological Assn., A. Psychiatric Assn., and ASPR, was also presented.

The 20 pages were exquisitely typed and flawlessly Xeroxed with the Xerox repairman present to ensure it so. Then they were separated into transparent plastic folders. Dean had to disappear from life for three weeks to get this done each year. It is human to err, and, on the 1969 one he

was completing the packets with one hour to go before the Post Office closed; suddenly he realized he had Xeroxed the wrong article, leaving it out and submitting two of another. So he raced across town to the Xerox machine before it closed, and then to the Post Office with five minutes to spare to bargain for another hour which was granted to meet the deadline.

The application was considered by the first committee in the second half of November. Dean could not find out un-

til mid-December that it had passed. The P. A. application was then on the agenda of the AAAS Council meeting, sent to delegates as Item 7. But there was a mistake. Only four P. A. members were listed as AAAS Fellows, not nine. So Dean went up to the AAAS Annual Convention, held this year in Boston, and sought out Dr. Roberts just after he came off a TV show. He agreed to have the typing mistake corrected and gave the good news that the Board of Directors on December 26 had passed the P. A. application. So now there remained the vote of AAAS Council on December 30, when a strange event occurred on the 29th. Dean is an addict of Polynesian restaurants and goes in to admire the South Sea Island decor, hear the Hawaiian music, and order tea and fortune cookies. He must have eaten 300 such cookies over the years and read the fortunes. On the 29th, in the KONTIKI, at 7 p. m., he was given the fortune "SUCCESS WILL COME TO YOU SOON," Did soon mean just 17 hours?

The AAAS Council meeting was held in the Boston Stat-

ler-Hilton ballroom which was so vast that an Observer's Gallery was roped off at the back. Thus Dean could get a first-hand account of what happened. The Chairman should have been Dr. Spillhaus but he could not be present. Neither could Dr. Roberts, so it fell to the 1969 AAAS President, Dr. Bentley Glass. About 12 noon Dr. Glass brought up Item 7 on the agenda – the application of the American Orthopsychiatric Association and the Parapsychological Association for affiliation. Dr. Glass: "I will put each organization separately to a vote. The A. Orthopsychiatric Assn.. do I hear a motion? Yes. Second? Yes. Any discussion? Silence. All those in favor of the motion say Aye? Aye. Against? Silence. The motion is passed by voice vote."

'Now the Parapsychological Association. Do I hear a motion? Silence. (Dean cringed, since he had tried to arrange a friend but could not – and perhaps it was as well. The next ten seconds were interminable.) Then a soft voice spoke up and said 'Yes.' 'Is there a second? Silence. ' (Again

Dean nearly died. Do we lose it because there is no second to the motion?) But after five seconds someone said, 'Yes.' 'Is there any discussion?' Several members tried to get to the microphones. A man whose name Dean could not hear said: "In our agenda it states that 'the aims of the P. A. are to advance parapsychology as a science, to disseminate knowledge of the field, and to integrate the findings with those of other branches of science.' The so-called phenomena of parapsychology do not

«The whole history of scientific advance is full of scientists investigating phenomena that the establishment did not believe were there. I submit that we vote in favor of this Association's work» [...]

exist and it is impossible to do scientific work in this area, so that we have a null science. I therefore will vote against this motion." A woman member said: "We are not familiar with what parapsychology is and so we are not qualified to make a vote on this association." (This was not quite correct, since Dr. McConnell had undertaken the huge task of mailing several items of literature describing parapsychology to all 530 delegates during the fall.)

Dr. Glass added: 'The Committee on Council Affairs considered the P.A.'s work for a very long time. The Committee came to the conclusion that it is an association investigating controversial or non-existent phenomena; however it is open in membership to critics and agnostics; and they were satisfied that it uses scientific methods of enquiry; thus that its investigation can be regarded as scientific. Further information has come to us that the number of AAAS fellows who are also members of the P. A. is not four as on the agenda but nine." (Even the typing error was now working in our favor.) 'Is there any further discussion?'

Dr. Margaret Mead spoke: "For the last ten years we have been arguing about what constitutes science and scientific method and what societies use it. We even changed the By-laws about it. The P. A. uses statistics and blinks, placebos, double blinks and other standard scientific devices. (Then in a ringing statement.) The whole history of scientific advance is full of scientists investigating phenomena that the establishment did not believe were there. I submit that we vote in favor of this Association's work." Dr. Glass: 'The question of a vote is raised. Because of the controversial nature of this motion we should have a show of hands. Please raise your hands those Council members in favor of the motion?' (Approximately 160-180 hands gauged by the number of tables and average number of persons seated.) "Those against?' (Approximately 30-35.) Dr. Glass: 'It seems that the motion is carried. If anyone desires a count of the hands, I will ask for the vote to be repeated? Silence. The motion is carried. Now to Item 8.

Dean was overcome with emotion and wept. He had got out of a bed of flu to go to Boston. It was due to those members who had published superlative research papers. Now however, many parapsychologists' positions in Universities would be strengthened. The P. A. membership would rise as many good scientists would be able to join now without forfeiting their jobs or their promotion. Money may be easier too. Advances would come in man's understanding of his mind. It was a kind of intellectual turning point as we entered the Seventies. We can rejoice for a time, for many of us have yearned for decades to be regarded as respectable scientists.

Yet we must not let it go to our heads, but hope for better research with more emphasis on a theory or model which will predict results. To keep our perspective may we remember a free translation of T. H. Huxley's dictum: Sit down before a little fact and ponder it humbly, and the smaller the fact, ponder it the longer and more humbly.

There is no Gate

On the PA and the AAAS

It was quite an honor when the late Robert van de Castle entrusted his AAAS-related papers and correspondence into my care at the close of the 55th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association in Durham, North Carolina. Having been elected President following the PA's induction into the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Van de Castle's papers documented the organization of the PA's first sponsored AAAS symposium, which would take place in Chicago, Illinois in 1970.

The PA had not yet made plans to present a symposium during their initial year as an AAAS Affiliate because the Council felt that they needed to take some time to become familiar with the association's

style of operating and “not attract any undue attention to [itself] so early in [its] period of affiliation.” However, as Van de Castle wrote to Gardner Murphy just months before the event, they “received such strongly worded letters from various AAAS officials practically demanding that [they] put on a symposium and indicating that this was the customary expectation for all new affiliated organizations” that the PA Council was more-or-less forced to overcome its hesitation (Van de Castle, 1970).

Engrossed in this correspondence, I wanted know the rest of the story. Not only did I want to know what was presented at that first symposium and how it was received, but I wanted to know what happened at all of the PA-sponsored symposia that took



| by ANNALISA VENTOLA,
The Parapsychological Association

place following that, and why it seems that we still imagine ourselves to be outside of the gates of science despite having been invited to join the world's largest general scientific body decades ago.

For the past two years, I have been researching the relation between the PA and the AAAS by looking primarily

at symposia presented at national meetings of AAAS, how *Science Magazine* has treated parapsychological topics, and discussions of the AAAS in PA newsletters and annual reports. With the cooperation of Norma Rosado-Blake, Archivist and Records Manager at the AAAS, I was able to secure original programs of psi-related symposia and in some cases recordings, proceedings, and AAAS-produced monographs.

Although I found the occasional out-spoken and ill-informed commentary in *Science* and learned plenty of John

For the past two years, I have been researching the relationship between the PA and the AAAS by looking primarily at symposia presented at national meetings of AAAS, how Science Magazine has treated parapsychological topics, and discussions of the AAAS in PA newsletters and annual reports.

Wheeler's famous denunciation of the PA at the 1979 AAAS meeting, I failed to uncover evidence of systematic biases against parapsychological research. Instead what I found was a "business as usual" approach to presenting parapsychology to the larger scientific community. I uncovered a decade of symposia that began with an orientation to the very basics of psi research and increased in complexity, followed by question-and-answer periods that conveyed the interest of a curious and open-minded audience. I found that these efforts resulted in further integration of parapsychology into the scientific mainstream.

In 1982, the PA employed a communications company for assistance with its public relations. The agent recommended that the PA take a more positive line in dealing with the public and advocated that "parapsychologists stop acting as though they are victims" (Parapsychological Association, 1982). In that spirit, my reading of the history of the PA's relation with the AAAS will also take a positive line, imagining – if you will – that we are indeed regarded as reputable scientists, that our AAAS affiliation will likely continue to go untested, and that we should have no fear of attracting attention to ourselves.

Business as Usual: Parapsychology in *Science Magazine* 1937 – 1969

Long before the establishment of the Parapsychological Association, *Science* served as a mouthpiece for the developing field of parapsychology by reprinting its most important announcements. In 1937, one of the first mentions of the field appeared in the form of an announcement of the *Journal of Parapsychology (JP)* in the "Scientific Events" section of Volume 85 (p. 171), right alongside an announcement of Carl von Ossietzky's Nobel Peace Prize and a report of a fire at Syracuse University.

In 1938, a curious article appeared, *Exact probabilities in card-matching problems* (Brown, 1938), which contained a reference to the *Journal of Parapsychology*. As discussed by Seymour H. Mauskopf in a 1978 AAAS symposium and later in his book *The Elusive Science* (Mauskopf & McVaugh, 1980), a number of relatively prominent mathematicians had taken an interest in the statistical problems raised by parapsychology and took up the task of performing the tedious calculations necessary to furnish the exact frequency values for successful guesses in a deck of 25 cards.

The referenced *JP* article is described as containing a correct, though time-consuming, solution to the problem.

After twelve years and a Second World War with no mention of the field, a 1950 issue of *Science* (112:158) announced a \$30,000 grant to Duke University for J. B. Rhine's research in parapsychology. Three years later, Gardner Murphy published nearly a full page account of the First International Conference of Parapsychological Studies in Utrecht, sponsored by the Parapsychology Foundation (PF) (Murphy, 1953).

Leading up to AAAS affiliation in 1969, a multitude of short announcements about the field appeared in *Science*, including announcements of parapsychological books received (123: 148; 125:1207; 126:1123; 133:1916), the establishment of a second US parapsychology laboratory at St. Joseph's College (123: 1027), announcement of the winner of the McDougall award for distinguished work in parapsychology (126:299), a competition for a \$1000 award administered by the PF for the best treatise on parapsychology (134:40), advertisements for fellowships with Gertrude Schmeidler at the City College New York (135:31), and a formal announcement about the

Leading up to AAAS affiliation in 1969, a multitude of short announcements about the field appeared in Science, including announcements of parapsychological books received [...] the establishment of a second US parapsychology laboratory at St. Joseph's College [...] a competition for a \$1000 award administered by the PF for the best treatise on parapsychology [...]

formation of the PA (127:84) in 1957.

At this point, *Science* was communicating the major developments of parapsychology as a field of study, but remained almost silent on the results of its research. The 1950s and the 1960s witnessed the publication of just two parapsychological studies, one reporting negative (Smith & Canon, 1954), and another reporting positive findings (Duane & Behrendt,

1965) – neither of which were reported by researchers associated with the field, and the second of which “failed to meet some elementary criteria for parapsychological research and...would have been rejected on first reading by all of the four reputable parapsychology journals” (Tart, 1966).

In the midst of all this, a nine-page critique of the field was published by biologist George R. Price (Price, 1955). Invoking a classic Humean argument against the case for psi and demanding “one completely convincing experiment—just one experiment that does not have to be accepted simply on a basis of faith in human honesty” (p. 363), he describes an elaborate scheme by which the results of Soal's experiments could have been fraudulently produced – a scheme that would have required the collusion of Soal's entire laboratory. Fifteen years later, Price would have a religious experience and become a Biblical scholar of the New Testament (Harman, 2010). In 1972, he published an apology to Rhine and to Soal in *Science* (Price, 1972). Ironically, Soal would later be suspected of fraud by his colleagues under entirely different conditions (Markwick, 1978), though his guilt still remains a matter for debate (Garton, 2010).

J. B. Rhine's response to Price's 1955 article conveyed an appropriate attitude for approaching these early *Science* critiques, "on the whole, (the article is) a good event for parapsychology. It is not merely that it is better to be attacked than it is to be ignored. According to the ways of American science, a revolutionary finding has to be cuffed and kicked through the entrance in order to gain admittance. When unorthodox issues are concerned, only critical articles, and the rougher the better, are likely to be accepted by the scientific periodicals." To Rhine, the publishing of this critique was forward momentum for the field, and with tongue-in-cheek he accepted his four-page opportunity "to get a lot of instruction on parapsychology into *Science*" (Rhine, 1956, p. 11).

The Workshop of Science: Psi Research at AAAS National Meetings 1970 - 1993

After becoming an Affiliate of the AAAS, the first PA-sponsored AAAS symposium was heralded by a two-page article in *Science* authored by E. Douglas Dean. Making up for the paucity of psi results published in *Science*, Dean

used his limited space to focus on the significant results of experimental programs at seven different centers throughout the United States (Dean, 1970). At the symposium itself, only a cursory review of the Rhine Era proof-oriented research was presented, including an overview of much of the process-oriented research that came to characterize the 1960s and 1970s. Dream studies, EEG studies, the "sheep-goat" effect, hypnosis, and the challenges of working with selected versus unselect-

The symposium was rather low level and served to give some broad outlines of the types of topics that are currently being researched. There were approximately two hundred and fifty members in the audience and the majority of the questions seemed to come from interested college students rather than older members of the audience.

ed subjects were just a few of the topics covered during the three-hour block of time (Mihalasky, 1970).

Describing the event, PA President Robert van de Castle wrote (circa 1970):

"The symposium was rather low level and served to give some broad outlines of the types of topics that are currently being researched. There were approximately two hundred and fifty members in the audience and the majority of the questions seemed to come from interested college students rather than older members of the audience. There was one critical comment from the floor and that was directed mostly toward the lack of a coherent theory to explain the various findings."

This low-level approach must have been successful, as the symposium was immediately followed by further PA-sponsored AAAS symposia in 1971, 1972, and 1975, devoted exclusively to parapsychological research, but with increasing depth as researchers returned to these topics with greater subtlety. Additional symposia took place at national AAAS meetings in 1978, 1979, 1984, and 1993, with parapsychological researchers collaborating with members of other scientific fields¹. Because the titles

and participants for these various symposia do not appear elsewhere in the literature, the appendix contains a summary of each symposium program, extracted from the original as preserved in the AAAS archives, but summarized to conserve space (see Appendix).

Unable to locate recordings, proceedings, or reviews for the 1971 and 1972 PA-sponsored symposia, it is difficult to determine how those events were received. However, 1973 was the year for the next major critique of the field to appear in *Science*, and it was largely neutral. Written by Nicholas Wade, a science-writer and editor freshly-hired by the AAAS, the article broadly summarized the field, including an interview with the now 78 year-old J. B. Rhine, and covered the expanded efforts described in the 1970-1972 PA-sponsored symposia (Wade, 1973).

A few ill-informed statements hint at Wade's possible biases ("parapsychologists... suffer from the disadvantage of being enthusiasts; they are not neutral scientific observers in the sense that they are already persuaded that ESP exists," p. 142), but in the end he concludes that "the climate is probably now more favorable than ever for para-

Do any of the speakers know about the est Erhard Sensitivity Training Program? Is anyone aware of the experiments by Dolores Krieger on the effects of psychic healing upon hemoglobin counts? How can we use psychic energy?

psychologists to break the boycott and secure a fairer hearing for their claims. But there is probably some little way yet to go before parapsychology becomes assimilable into the realm of natural science" (p. 143).

Recordings of the 1975-1979 symposia are available in the AAAS archives, and listening to them provides a direct look at how the programs were received by conferees. The 1975 symposium on *The Application and Misapplication of Findings in Parapsychology* touched on issues of psychic fraud and the ethics of psi training programs. During the Q&A period, the questions received were such as one would expect to be addressed to a panel of experts:

Do any of the speakers know about the est Erhard Sensitivity Training Program? Is anyone aware of the experiments by Dolores Krieger on the effects of psychic healing upon hemoglobin counts? How can we use psychic energy? And one especially thoughtful questioner asked whether the very findings of parapsychology indicate that parapsychology has been mistaken in relying so thoroughly on the scientific method. At the close, the discussant thanked the speakers for their "discussions full of both promise and caution," (AAAS, 1975).

The year of 1978 brought two psi-related symposia to the national AAAS meeting. The first of these, *The Reception of Unconventional Science*, was arranged by Duke University historian Seymour Mauskopf and chosen for publication as a monograph in the AAAS Selected Symposia Series – launched in 1977 to "address topics of current and continuing significance, both within and among the sciences, and in areas in which science and technology impact public policy" (Mauskopf, 1979). Mauskopf's contribution to both the symposium and the monograph discussed Rhine's earliest work from 1934 – 1938. During the symposium's discussion period, most of the

questioners addressed other panelists, but one questioner pointed out how parapsychologists had weathered statistical critiques and accusations of sloppy procedures or fraud, then asked “what is the next step going to be?”

A second symposium in 1978 was organized by Charles Honorton, which was unprecedented in bringing together an interdisciplinary panel, and addressed problems affecting many scientific disciplines: replicability and experimenter effects. Due to an error on the part of the duplication company that furnished the symposia recordings, audio of the final discussion period is missing, but thanks to an article in the *Parapsychology Review* that year we have a glimpse of what happened (Kelly, 1978, p. 26):

“A spirited discussion period followed... Intense questioning was prompted by several issues raised by the four speakers and a large part of the audience became vigorously involved. A particularly excited interchange developed when Robert Jahn, Dean of the School of Engineering of Princeton University, raised the extreme possibility that science might one day be faced with phenomena that, by their nature, must elude replication. He wondered what recourse would be available to a science

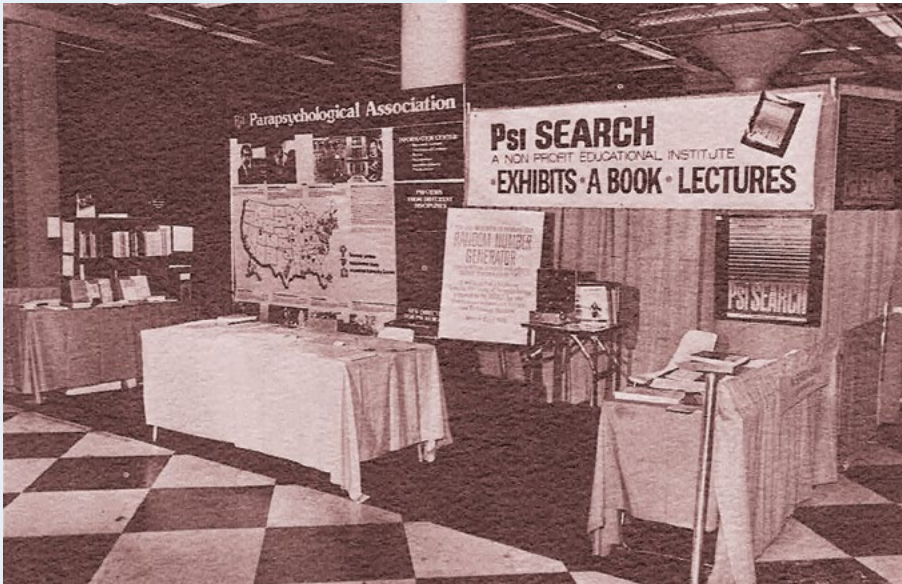
geared to confronting predictable phenomena in such a case. Honorton responded that if such phenomena were to exist, they would be outside the purview of science, but that, given the power of statistical evaluation, he felt that any phenomena, however irregularly occurring, would eventually be unfolded... This discussion continued with increasing subtlety until the symposium had to be adjourned for the afternoon session.”

Also in 1978, the PA, in cooperation with several allied organizations, furnished a booth in the exhibit hall for the first time at a AAAS convention. The booth was under the exhibition section theme of “Tools of Science” and was staffed by members of both the PA and the American Society for Psychical Research. A backdrop showed an outline map with blowups showing labs, scientific equipment, and individual researchers. Captions described the work of various centers. A side panel outlined interdisciplinary aspects of parapsychology and a display of recommended publications was featured. The exhibit was attended by an estimated 2,000 conferees (Rockwell, 1978).

In 1979, Robert Jahn arranged a symposia titled *The*

Role of Consciousness in the Physical World, which blended a panel of physicists and parapsychologists to approach the question of whether there may be a common basis for both physical and mental phenomena. Dismayed at having to share the podium with parapsychologists, John Archibald Wheeler, a theoretical physicist, veered off the stated program and used part of his presentation time to launch an attack on the PA, calling for its dismissal from the AAAS. When asked to be more specific about his criticisms during the discussion period, he

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accused J.B. Rhine of falsifying a non-parapsychological experiment 50 years before and said that he had a witness. The witness later denied the charges, and *Science* published Wheeler's retraction (Wheeler, 1979).

Regretfully, Wheeler's inappropriate outburst has become the most retold story in the PA's history with the AAAS - not one of the dozens of other parapsychology papers presented at AAAS national meetings, nor the encouraging interactions that they stimulated, nor the positive trajectory of the field up until that point have received even a fraction of the attention given to that single event.

However, how the AAAS handled the Wheeler affair is notable. On the advice of legal counsel, the AAAS disallowed

the distribution of the recording containing Wheeler's off-program remarks. Following that, the President of the AAAS requested that the Board ask the Committee on Council Affairs to establish a set of criteria for disaffiliation. The result was that the Council of the AAAS adopted on January 7, 1980, procedures that make it fairly difficult for an affiliated organization to be terminated, requiring a two-thirds vote of the Affiliate's Section Committee members, followed by a two-thirds vote for termination by the Council of the AAAS (McClenon, 1984).

Following the affair, the incoming president of the AAAS, Kenneth Boulding, was asked in an interview by the *Washington Star* where he stood on the issue of the attack on the PA by Wheeler. In his response

to Wheeler's retraction, Rhine quoted what he termed the *Boulding Declaration*: "The scientific community has to be kept open...The evidence of parapsychology can't just be dismissed out of hand...One has to subject their methodology to something. (I am) ... in favor of keeping them in" (Rhine, 1979).

In 1981, sociologist James McClenon conducted a survey of individuals selected from the membership of the AAAS Council and several Sections. Overall, 69% of these "elite scientists" considered the investigation of ESP to be a legitimate scientific undertaking and on top of that 42% of respondents in the PA's section - Section X - responded that they believed in ESP. These numbers suggest that at least in the early 80s the PA's disaffiliation was improbable (McClenon, 1984).

It is unfortunate that only two more symposia took place at national AAAS meetings after 1979. It is difficult to tell if this was a result of Wheeler's actions or due to other circumstances. The 1980s were a difficult decade for parapsychology, organized skepticism was gaining ground with the formation of CSICOP in 1976, Project Alpha from 1979 - 1981, and the demise of several parapsychological labora-

tories and programs. The 1984 AAAS Symposium the *Edges of Science* paired advocates and counter-advocates – including the “Amazing” James Randi – in a polemical debate about everything from the paranormal to UFOs. This was an unfortunate devolution from the level of discussion taking place at the AAAS just a few years before.

In 1990, the Parapsychological Association appointed Jessica Utts as its representative to the AAAS, and by 1993 – after two unsuccessful attempts to host a symposium devoted solely to parapsychological meta-analyses – she was invited to co-chair a general symposium

In discussing our future with the AAAS, it is important to understand its mission and its expectations for affiliates like the PA. [...] The AAAS is a lot like the Parapsychological Association in that they are membership-based organizations with publications and an annual meeting.

with Robert Rosenthal, and brought in Daryl Bem to discuss his Ganzfeld meta-analysis. In retrospect, Utts (1994, pp. 125-126) felt that “it was wise to combine the two sessions as stated by the AAAS. The audience consisted mostly of statisticians and other methodologists who were interested in meta-analysis. They were able to see parapsychology presented in the context of mainstream science, a setting that would not have evolved with our original proposal.” The session was attended by only 50 people, but a few months after the meeting, the AAAS notified Utts that it was among the most widely publicized.

Advancing Science. Serving Society.

In discussing our future with the AAAS, it is important to understand its mission and its expectations for affiliates like the PA. The objectives of the AAAS are: “to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to foster scientific freedom and responsibility, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress” (AAAS,

1976). The AAAS hopes that its affiliates will also serve its mission in a mutually beneficial relationship. The minimum asked of the PA is that they promote membership in the AAAS, promote their meetings, and send a representative to every annual meeting.

The AAAS is a lot like the Parapsychological Association in that they are membership-based organizations with publications and an annual meeting. They face similar challenges, like maintaining healthy membership numbers, keeping their website updated, getting renewal notices out on time, digitizing records, maintaining archives, keeping communication channels open, keeping up with changes in technology, planning engaging meetings and dealing with complaints. At least this is the picture I get after having sat in on their business meetings as the PA’s representative in 2014 and 2016.

There is also a political dimension to the AAAS. Being located in Washington, DC, they are in a position to lobby for increases in the US’s diminishing federal research and development budget, which has become a growing concern and impacts all of us. As a proportion of the federal budget, R&D investment has shrunk from 10% in 1967 to less than 4%

now - dropping the US to tenth place in the world in terms of research intensity. The AAAS is also concerned with gender equality in STEM fields, how discussions of climate change are handled in textbooks, and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

As reported at their 2016 Meeting of Affiliates, AAAS symposia proposals, and article submissions in *Science* have become increasingly competitive, with acceptance rates of 33% and 6% respectively. A new open access journal, *Science Advances*, currently has a 25% acceptance rate. These low acceptance rates should not discourage PA members from submitting papers and proposals, but they should provide some perspective if receiving a rejection letter.

When it comes to national meetings, approximately two-thirds of symposia proposals are rejected. However, there may still be a future for parapsychology at AAAS national meetings. My recommendation would be to make sure that symposia proposals are relevant to the meeting theme and model them after the 1978 symposium on *Replicability and Experimenter Influence* or the 1993 symposium on *Statistical, Methodological, and Substantive Aspects of Meta-analysis*. In both of these

Regretfully, Wheeler's inappropriate outburst has become the most retold story in the PA's history with the AAAS - not one of the dozens of other parapsychology papers presented at AAAS national meetings, nor the encouraging interactions that they stimulated, nor the positive trajectory of the field up until that point have received even a fraction of the attention given to that single event.

programs, parapsychologists brought unique perspectives to issues that crossed disciplinary lines. This is the sort of thing that the AAAS values.

There is more to the AAAS than their meetings and publications, however. PA members can support the AAAS by becoming a member and signing up for one of their many volunteer programs. For example, one can become an On-Call Scientist for human rights organizations that are in need of expertise or sign

up as a reviewer for symposia proposals.

The AAAS is far too occupied with its mission of service to keep up with the gate-keeper image that many have put upon it. On occasions when they were thrust into the role, I believe that the governance of the AAAS behaved fairly and dispassionately, which in most cases worked out in favor of parapsychology as a science. Instead of asking ourselves if we are inside or outside the gates of science, it may be more productive to question the metaphor, to consider very carefully who we are putting in the gate-keeper role, and to ask ourselves what we might be projecting on them. In terms of further research, it may be productive to closely examine the impact that organized skepticism and counter-advocacy groups have had on the advancement of science and imagine strategies for liberating ourselves from polemical discourse. As for the AAAS, my reading of our history with them is that they have earned, and continue to earn, our support.

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Endnote

1 Additional psi-related symposia on quantum retrocausation took place at the 2006, 2011, and 2016 Annual Meetings of the AAAS Pacific Division, organized by Daniel Sheehan. Because these were regional meetings, and not sponsored by the PA nor organized by PA members, they fell outside the scope of this article.

appendix

1970

- 1970 -

Techniques and Status of Modern Parapsychology

Chicago, Illinois

Arranged by Robert Van de Castle (*University of Virginia*) and Douglas Dean (*Newark College of Engineering*)

Chaired by Gardner Murphy (*George Washington University*)

Parapsychology in the
Framework of Modern Science

Gardner Murphy

Present Day Research in
Parapsychology

Robert van de Castle

Panel: Current Research
at Seven Centers of Para-
psychological Research in
the United States

Gaither Pratt (*University of Virginia School of Medicine*), Douglas Dean, Karlis Osis (*American Society for Psychical Research*), Charles Honorton (*Maimonides Medical Center*), Gertrude Schmeidler (*City University of New York*), Helmut Schmidt (*Foundation for Research on the Nature of Man*), Robert Morris (*Duke University*)

This symposium introduced the historical evolution of the field of parapsychology as a scientific discipline. Stress was placed on the interdisciplinary character of the research. There was a brief survey of traditional methods and means of evaluation. After the introductory speakers, a panel of representatives of seven centers of parapsychological research in North

America gave a brief summary of their work. Topics covered high-scoring participants, applications, effects of distance dream studies, personality patterns, anomalies in quantum theory, and developing psychokinetic theory.

1971

- 1971 -

Data from EEG and Other Areas of Parapsychology

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Arranged and chaired by Douglas Dean (*Newark College of Engineering*)

Session 1:
Examples of EEG Data

Alpha-ESP
Relations with
Nonintentional and
Purposeful ESP

Larry Lewis (*City University of New York*)

EEG Results with a
Selected High-Scoring
Subject

Robert Morris (*Psychical Research Foundation*)

EEG Feedback and ESP
Performance

Charles Honorton (*Maimonides Medical Center*)

The EEG-Alpha Frequency
Parameter and ESP Test
Performance

Rex Stanford (*University of Virginia School of Medicine*)

Session 2:
Examples of Recent
Methods

Circuit TV and Other
Instrumental Systems in
ESP Testing of Test and
Retest Scores of Mood
versus ESP Results

Karlis Osis (*American Society for Psychical Research*)

Similarity of Test and
Retest Scores of Mood
versus ESP Results

Gertrude Schmeidler (*City University of New York*)

Dream Studies and
Parapsychology: An
Experimental Approach

Montague Ullman (*Maimonides Medical Center*)

Registration of Prediction
by Mice of Electric Shock

Jay Levy (*Medical College of Georgia, Augusta*)

In part one of this session, researchers discussed the relation of parapsychological results to EEG. The EEG data related to the effect of purposefulness on EEG alpha-psi relations, increasing measurement accuracy by dialing ESP guesses directly onto the EEG record, feedback enhancement of the psi effect, and alpha frequency shift (frequency increasing by ca.1 Hz with increasing psi effect). In the second session, data were presented of the measurement of parapsychological effects by various recent methods such as closed circuit TV, the Nowlis mood scale, the rapid-eye-movement technique in dreams, a Skinner box type arrangement, and the automatic registration of prediction by mice of electric shock.

- 1972 -
Understanding
Parapsychological
Phenomena: A Survey
of Four Possible
Areas of Integration

Washington, D.C.
Arranged by Robert L. Morris (*Psychical
Research Foundation*)

The Integration of
Biological Factors
Robert L. Morris

The Integration of State of
Awareness Factors
Charles Honorton (*Maimonides Medical
Center*)

The Integration of
Cognitive Processing
Factors
Rex G. Stanford (*University of Virginia*)

The Integration of Cultural
and Personality Factors
Robert L. Van de Castle (*University of
Virginia*)
Discussants:
Irvin L. Child (*Yale University*) and Walter
J. Levy (*Foundation for Research on the
Nature of Man*)

This symposium attempted to integrate results and theory in four important areas of parapsychological research. Previous work had indicated that several aspects of internal state such as state of awareness and level of arousal may be important for the production of these phenomena. Stanford developed a set of hypotheses about some of the cognitive processing factors that may be involved. The final paper of the symposium complemented the more specific findings in the earlier papers by

discussing the general effects of cultural differences and personality patterns.

- 1975 -
The Application and
Misapplication of
Findings in
Parapsychology

New York, New York
Arranged by Robert L. Morris (*University
of California, Santa Barbara*)
Presided by Irvin L. Child (*Yale University*)

Problems of
Interpretation in Applied
Parapsychological
Research
Helmut Schmidt (*Foundation for Research
on the Nature of Man*)

Towards Application:
Strong Human Results
during Internally
Deployed Attention
Charles Honorton (*Maimonides Medical
Center*)

Information Amplification
Techniques Applied to Low
but Reliable Signal Levels
James C. Carpenter (*University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill*)

Techniques for Simulating
Psychic Phenomena
Robert L. Morris

Psi Application in
Interpersonal Interactions
Gertrude R. Schmeidler (*City College,
CUNY*)

Ethical and Practical
Problems in the Teaching
of Psychic Ability
Rex G. Stanford (*St. John's University*)

This symposium attempted to clarify several issues about the applicability of parapsychology to real-life problems. Presenters discussed the many difficulties, both theoretical and practical, that have arisen with the basic research in this area. Included was a summary of the range of techniques used to simulate psychic phenomena by stage performers and frauds. Presenters also covered areas of research that have shown some promise of eventual applicability, describing where the research presently stands and what needed to be done before successful applications could be seriously developed. Finally, the concept of teaching psychic ability was discussed, including questionable claims made by psychic instructors, and associated ethical and practical issues.

- 1978 -
The Reception of
Unconventional
Science by the
Scientific Community

Washington, D.C.
Arranged by Seymour H. Mauskopf (*Duke
University*)

The Reception of
Acausality
Paul Forman (*Museum of History and
Technology, Smithsonian Institution*)

The Reception and Accep-
tance of Continental Drift
Henry R. Frankel (*University of Missouri*)

The Reception of Acupuncture

John Z. Bowers (*The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation*)

The Controversy Over Statistics in Parapsychology

Seymour H. Mauskopf
Discussant:
Marcello Truzzi (*Eastern Michigan University*)

This symposium explored the response of scientific communities to scientific unconventionality. Four case studies covering a spectrum of unconventionalities and responses were presented. These ranged from the case of acausal physics which, however radical and philosophically unsettling, was fairly quickly incorporated into the main body of quantum mechanics, to acupuncture and parapsychology which, arguably, have not yet found general acceptance in science.

- 1978 - Replicability and Experimenter Influence

Washington, D.C.
Arranged by Charles Honorton (*Maimonides Medical Center*)
Presided by Irvin Child (*Yale University*)

The Effect of the
Observer in Quantum
Mechanics
Henry Margenau (*Yale University*)

Experimenter Effects in
Behavioral Research
Robert Rosenthal (*Harvard University*)

Replicability and
Experimenter Influence in
Parapsychological
Research
Charles Honorton

Science and the Rule of
Replicability: A Sociological
Study of Scientific Method
Harry M. Collins (*University of Bath, England*)

Replicability and freedom from experimenter influence have traditionally been considered the *sine qua non* of science, yet the placebo effect in medicine, expectancy effects in behavioral research, the attention factor in labor productivity tests, the «sheep-and-goats» effect in ESP studies, and even the observer-participant problem in quantum mechanics, indicate the difficulty of avoiding experimenter influence. Similarly, when one examines replicability, it is clear that one never exactly replicates any experiment, but instead tries to compensate for differences in temperature, sample characteristics, and other factors, the effects of which one believes one understands. This symposium looked at experimenter effects, particularly in new, pre-theoretical areas of research, and problems in determining what constitutes adequate replication.

- 1979 - The Role of Consciousness in the Physical World

Houston, Texas
Arranged by Robert G. Jahn (*Princeton University*)

The Extension of the Area
of Science
E. P. Wigner (*Princeton University*)

Psychophysical
Interaction
Charles Honorton (*Maimonides Medical Center*)

Experimental Psi
Research: Implications
for Physics
H. E. Puthoff, R. Targ, E. C. May (*SRI International*)

Not Consciousness but
the Distinction Between
the Probe and the Probed
as Central to the
Elemental Quantum Act
of Observation
John Archibald Wheeler (*University of Texas, Austin*)

Broader Implications
of Recent Findings in
Psychological and
Psychic Research
Willis W. Harman (*SRI International, Institute of Noetic Sciences*)

A panel of researchers looked at the questions surrounding the nature of the mind and its relation to the physical world, particularly in regard to the elemental act of observation in quantum theory and findings in parapsychology that appear to be in conflict with the laws of physics.

1984
- 1984 -
The Edges of Science

New York, New York
Arranged by Rolf M. Sinclair (*NSF, Washington, DC*)

Introduction: What Are the
«Edges of Science»?
Issac Asimov (*Boston University School of
Medicine*)

Parapsychology: A Field to
Investigate
Stanley Krippner (*Saybrook Institute*)

Parapsychology:
A Doubtful Premise
James Randi (*Committee for the Scientific
Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal*)

Search for Extraterrestrial
Intelligence!
Frank D. Drake (*Cornell University*)

Where Are They?
Implications of Ancient
and Future Migration
Eric M. Jones (*Los Alamos National
Laboratory*)

The Properties of the UFO
Phenomenon
J. Allen Hynek (*Northwestern University*)

The Null Hypothesis for
the UFO Phenomenon
James Edward Oberg (*Space Engineer,
Houston, Texas*)

This symposium looked at the edges of
science where there is clear disagreement
about whether there are phenomena to
be investigated, and whether the tools of
science can yield anything. The presen-
tations focused on three topics that are
sharply debated at the edges of science:

the existence of «paranormal» phenomena
involving the human mind in yet unex-
plained modes, the value of searches
for extraterrestrial intelligence, and the
existence of «UFOs.»

1993
- 1993 -
Statistical,
Methodological, and
Substantive Aspects
of Meta-Analysis

Boston, Massachusetts
Organized by: Robert Rosenthal (*Harvard
University*) and Jessica Utts (*University of
California, Davis*)

Meta-analysis in the
1990s: The State of the
Science
Harris Cooper (*University of Missouri*)

Controversy and
Cumulation: Meta-analytic
Techniques and How They
Advance Theory
Monica J. Harris (*University of Ken-
tucky*)

Meta-analysis of a
Specific Controversial
Domain: Replicable
Evidence for Telepathy?
Daryl J. Bem (*Cornell University*)

Critical Evaluations of
Meta-analysis
Robert Rosenthal (*Harvard University*)

Statistical Issues for
Meta-analysis in the 21st
Century
Donald B. Rubin (*Harvard University*)

Speakers in this symposium provided an
overview of the nature, history, and future
of meta-analysis in a manner accessible
to those unfamiliar with it yet informative
to the experienced meta-analyst. Cooper
began by describing the state of the
science in the 1990s. Harris emphasized
how meta-analytic procedures can be em-
ployed to advance theory. Bem described
the meta-analysis of a specific contro-
versial domain: determining whether
there is replicable evidence for telepathy.
Rosenthal provided an overview of well-
known and little-known criticisms and
consequences of meta-analysis. Rubin
discussed how meta-analytic procedures
should develop during the next century.

Is Inconsistency Our Only Consistent Outcome?

Nature is often hidden; sometimes overcome; seldom extinguished.

Sir Francis Bacon



| by *CHRIS A. ROE*
University of Northampton

Introduction:
Recap on Fraud
and Importance
of Replication

In the last issue of *Mindfield* I looked at the claim that parapsychology is more susceptible to experimenter fraud than other areas of the social sciences, and showed that in many respects we might expect fraud to be *less* likely in parapsychology because the rewards for fraudulent behaviour are comparatively meagre, the likelihood of discovery is comparatively high, and the

management of discoveries of fraud is comparatively transparent. Nevertheless, it is clear that fraud does occur in scientific practice and can distort the picture of reality that is painted by the data reported. One of the main corrective processes that ensures that fraudulent activity does not do too much damage is independent replication (Judson, 2004, p. 6). The

importance of replication for the process of science cannot be over-emphasised — at least in theory. Schmidt (2009, p. 90) describes replication as «one of the most important tools for the verification of facts within the empirical sciences,» and the Open Science Collaboration (2015, p. 943) began their recent very high profile *Science* paper (to be discussed later) by asserting that «reproducibility is a core principle of scientific progress. Scientific claims should not gain credence because of the status or authority of their originator but by the replicability of their supporting evidence». O’Hear (1989, pp. 61-2) argues that «a key feature of the objectivity of science is the repeatability of observations and experiments. Insisting on repeatability guards against observer bias and inaccuracy, to say nothing of dishonesty,

Unsurprisingly, counter-advocates have been particularly damning concerning the replicability of parapsychological claims.

and against freak results due to chance or unusual factors interfering with a particular observation. As such it is a crucial aspect of the objectivity and openness of science.»

Schmidt identifies two functions of replication: to establish stability in our knowledge of nature by differentiating between empirically supported and unsupported scientific claims; and to establish norms by differentiating between scientific and unscientific claims. Given parapsychology's precarious status as a scientific discipline, replication is thus clearly of great concern; indeed, the term *replicability* has no fewer than 65 entries in the index to Cardeña, Palmer and Marcusson-Clavertz's (2015) award-winning overview *Parapsychology: A Handbook for the 21st Century*.

Unsurprisingly, counter-advocates have been particularly damning concerning the replica-

bility of parapsychological claims. Hyman (2010a) has characterised inconsistency of study outcome as parapsychology's Achilles' heel, and argues that «if the data are elusive and incapable of being replicated, the scientific and the general communities can safely dismiss or ignore the claims for psi.» Others follow well-trodden rhetorical paths, so Novella (2012, p. 159) asserts that «psi research ... has yet to develop a single repeatable demonstration of psi,» and Alcock (2010, p. 35) claims «there has not been a single demonstration of paranormal phenomena that neutral scientists with the appropriate knowledge and skills can reproduce for themselves.» This kind of mantra has permeated into mainstream characterisations of the field, where textbooks report that «when tested under controlled conditions in well-designed experiments and replications, claim after claim of psychic ability has evaporated» (Passer & Smith, 2011, p. 56).

However, such characterisations are not peculiar to established skeptics. In arguing the case against psi, Stokes (2015, p. 47) observes: «One of the reasons why parapsychology has not been embraced by the scientific establishment is that many or most researchers have been unable to obtain reliable evidence of psi,» and Kennedy (2003) has argued that psi is fundamentally capricious or unsustainable in nature.

In contrast, Utts (1995, p. 289) claimed that «using the standards applied to any other area of science, it is concluded that psychic functioning has been well established,» Radin (1997, p. 58) has maintained that «when psi research is judged by the same standards as any other scientific discipline, then the results are as consistent as those observed in the hardest of the hard sciences,» and more recently Baptista, Derakhshani, and Tressoldi (2015, p. 192) asserted that «psi research has kept pace with associated mainstream and behavioural fields in terms of reproducibility.»

Which position do the data support? Given space constraints I shall limit myself to the body of work involving the ganzfeld technique. This should not be too misleading given that many of the commentators above similarly referred to this area in support of their position. Storm, Tressoldi, and DiRisio (2010) provided the most recent meta-analysis of Ganzfeld studies and found that for the period 1997–2008 a homogeneous data set of 29 experiments yielded a mean effect size of 0.142 ($p = 2.13 \times 10^{-8}$). Data were consistent with an earlier independent meta-analysis by Storm and Ertel (2001). When the databases were combined and outliers removed, the remaining set of 102 studies was statistically homogeneous and gave a highly significant deviation from chance

expectation (mean $ES = 0.135$, $p < 10^{-16}$), prompting the authors to conclude that «consistency has been demonstrated in the data and... there is good evidence of replication by a range of investigators» (p. 493).

Hyman (2010a) remains unconvinced and recommends that «instead of conducting meta-analyses on already completed experiments ... parapsychologists might have tried to directly replicate the autoganzfeld experiments with a study created for the stated purpose of replication» (p. 45). He regards Broughton and Alexander's (1997) study as just such an attempt and notes that it failed, concluding «from a scientific viewpoint this replication attempt is much more meaningful than the retrospective combining of already completed (and clearly heterogeneous) experiments» (p. 45). But Hyman could just as easily have chosen as his replication example Parker's (2000) automated ganzfeld database, consisting of 150 trials that gave a hit rate of 36% ($z = 3.02$), or Dalton's (1997) series of 128 trials that gave a hit rate of 47% ($h = .46$), and herein lies the problem with his argument. Although it is tempting to focus on the outcomes of individual studies, we must accept that it is naive to expect anything like replication on demand given what we know about the effects of study power and variation due to sampling error on the likelihood of capturing an effect

in classical significance terms. Utts (1991) has provided an extremely clear illustration of this issue, but it seems that some commentators still struggle with the principles involved.

Baptista and Derakhshani (2014, p. 57) consider the issue of power when they evaluate the outcomes of individual studies. They argue that «although it is true that most studies in parapsychology databases do not display significant results, it is also true that the number that do is significantly above the null hypothesis expectation.» Concentrating on “flagship” ganzfeld experiments, they note that of 60 experiments that followed Bem and Honorton's (1994) summary of methods and results from the Psychophysical Research Laboratories (which many have regarded as providing a standardised protocol—see Bem, Palmer, & Broughton, 2001), 15 were independently significant at $p \leq .05$, which is significantly greater than the 3 experiments that would be expected under the null hypothesis ($p < .0000002$). Baptista and Derakhshani (2014) have shown that, given the average effect size (32.2% hit rate) and average sample size (42 trials) among the set of 102 ganzfeld studies reviewed by Storm, Tressoldi, and Di Risio (2010), the observed proportion of significant studies (28.5%) is very close to the 30% expected by power analysis alone. They conclude that psi

effects, at least in the ganzfeld, «lawfully follow the predictions of conventional statistical models to a degree that is conducive to scientific investigation.» In fact they found that levels of study power substantially exceeded those reported for other areas of psychology.

Replication in Psychology

Implicit in Hyman's critique is that parapsychology fails to meet replication standards that can be found in other areas of science. But how common is replication in other social sciences such as psychology, and what replication rates are found there? Schmidt (2009, p. 95) complains that «there are hardly any direct replication studies published within the social sciences. This is very obvious from just a short inspection of any relevant journal... Within the social sciences, only the discovery of a new fact is credited. Therefore, replications are hard to publish. ‘Why publish something that is already known?’» In support, he cites Neuliep and Crandall (1990) who surveyed editors of social science journals and found that direct replications were discouraged, with nearly 94% reporting that replication studies were not included as examples of research encouraged for submission in the editorial policy, and 72% preferring a study with new findings

Implicit in Hyman's critique is that parapsychology fails to meet replication standards that can be found in other areas of science. But how common is replication in other social sciences such as psychology, and what replication rates are found there?

over a replication study. A similar survey of social science journal reviewers found that 54% preferred a study with new findings over a replication study, with the latter described as «Not newsworthy» and «waste of resources» (Neuliep & Crandall, 1993)

To address this, the Open Science Collaboration, a coalition of 270 research psychologists, agreed to conduct exact replications of published studies to see what proportion of findings could be confirmed independently. To avoid selection bias they chose as their sampling frame articles published in 2008 in three journals that represented a premier outlet for all psychological research

(*Psychological Science*), and leading disciplinary-specific journals for social psychology (*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*) and cognitive psychology (*Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*). Some papers were not chosen for replication attempts because they required access to special populations (such as macaques or people with autism), facilities, or depended on technical expertise not available in the collaboration. By default, the last experiment reported in each article was the subject of replication, which took into account the likelihood in a suite of experiments that later designs represented refinements of earlier ones. The key result had to be presented as a single statistical inference test or an effect size, and these needed to be convertible to a common effect size, r . Although a number of outcomes might be measured, only a single pre-specified outcome was included in the replication assessment. Using this method, 111 articles were selected by a replication team, of which 100 were completed by the project deadline.

Their initial assessment of whether studies had successfully replicated used a simple null hypothesis statistical test (NHST) in which outcomes are deemed significant if the probability of the observed result is less than or equal to $p = .05$ given the null hypothesis. Unsurprisingly, given

publication bias towards positive outcomes, 97 of the 100 *original* effects (97%) were significant, with other results falling in the suggestive range ($.05 > p > .06$). Given the statistical power of the replication studies, they predicted that 89 of them would be significant; however, they found that only 35 met this threshold. When looking at effect sizes, they found that 47% could be interpreted as successful replications in that the original result fell within the 95% confidence interval of the replication result. Of course, depending on the size of the effect and the variance in the data, the 95% CI can cover a wide range of values, including zero (indicating that the true effect could be that there is no effect), and it is notable that most of the replications (83%) produced a smaller effect size than did the original. This could reflect an initial cherry picking of positive outcomes from among the chance variation due to sampling error combined with a pronounced publication bias towards significant results. (There is no equivalent publication bias in the replication studies because all results are reported.) Baptista and Derakhshani (2014) make a persuasive argument that the replication rate found in the Open Science Collaboration is what one would expect for a database that consists of studies with an average study power of about 35% so that only 35% of the original studies repre-

sent true effects, and these have been replicated with high fidelity. Ominously, of course, this would imply that 65% of reported successful outcomes reflect Type 1 errors, and this interpretation has been typical of more mainstream coverage (e.g., Anonymous, 2016; Baker, 2015).

But in my view this may be too pessimistic, laying too much blame on original studies and assuming too much of replication attempts. It is interesting to note that the Open Science Collaboration found that reproducibility was stronger in studies and journals representing cognitive psychology than social psychology topics (48-53% compared with 23-29%). This is consistent with Fanelli's (2010) finding that the proportion of initial "positive" results increases as one progresses down the hierarchy of the sciences (with physical sciences placed at the top, social sciences at the bottom, and biological sciences somewhere in-between). Fanelli attributed this to confirmation bias due to researchers in "softer" sciences having fewer constraints on their conscious and unconscious biases; however, he begins that article by acknowledging that the hierarchy has been conceptualised by others (notably August Comte) in terms of the increasing complexity and generality of their subject of study, and the decreasing precision with which these subjects

can be known. As we move down the hierarchy there is also a shift in the degree to which important or relevant aspects of reality are socially constructed, as the object of study becomes increasingly aware of and responsive to its environment, and displays properties that are increasingly autonomous, idiosyncratic, and reflective of independent intentionality. Heraclitus famously observed, «no man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man»; so it is with research in the social sciences, where knowledge of previous trials and experiments can prompt a wide array of subtle changes in perception and behaviour that can have profound effects on the participant and thus upon the outcome of the experiment itself (see Rosenthal, 1966, for the classic treatment of this subject). The subtle nature of these communication and environmental factors makes them extremely difficult to notice or articulate so that they fall in the realm of tacit knowledge (Collins, 2010). Where successful replication depends on tacit knowledge and an intimate understanding of the sensitivities of one's subject matter, then simple adherence to methodological recipes seems doomed to failure (see Collins, 1986, for an extended treatment). In these circumstances, levels of confirmation in parapsychology seem quite robust. So much so

that it is hard to avoid the suspicion that critics have missed the point when they criticise replication rates in parapsychology: rather than having findings that are too inconsistent or ephemeral in comparison with other social sciences, in fact we may have replication rates that are more robust than we have any right to expect.

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Student

Corner

Paralit 101

What should a newcomer read to delve into parapsychological research? Depending on the individual's interest, there are several possible starting points.

General Introductions to Parapsychology

Irwin and Watt's (2007) *An Introduction to Parapsychology* (5th ed.) is still one of the best introductory textbooks on parapsychology out there. It deals comprehensively with the topics of parapsychology

including phenomena related to the survival of death. It also contains a list of key terms and study questions at the end of each chapter, which is why it commends itself for study purposes and situations. A more up-to-date book is *Parapsychology: A Handbook for the 21st Century* edited by Cardeña, Palmer, and Marcusson-Clavertz (2015). Its coverage is comprehensive and some of the chapters, such as the ones on meditation and practical applications, complement the formerly mentioned textbook nicely. Being an edited volume, the latter is naturally not as homogeneous to read.

| by MICHAEL TREMMEL,
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An even more up-to-date reference is *Parapsychology: A Beginner's Guide* by Watt (2016). However, this book is only recommended to gain an initial impression, as it does not reference any literature but contains only a (short) list of recommended further reading.

Introductions for Students and Instructors

Irwin (2001) has written a paper on "Parapsychology as a Career," which does away with preconceptions about a para-

psychologist's being and doing and is still of use to those interested. His monograph *Education in Parapsychology* (2013) treats the possibilities of studying parapsychology in the same practical vein, devoting three chapters to the perspectives of students as well as those of instructors, respectively.

Pro and Contra Debates

The scientific status of parapsychology is still controversial. Debates between proponents and critics on certain topics of parapsychology or the discipline as a whole have been published in renowned journals as well as in book form (e.g., Alcock, Burns, & Freeman, 2003; Freeman, 2005; Krippner & Friedman, 2010). Looking at some of the papers published in renowned journals (e.g., Bem, 2011; Bösch, Steinkamp, & Boller, 2006; Storm, Tressoldi, & Di Risio, 2010) and subsequent comments may also help to pin down parapsychology in the context of mainstream science.

Parapsychological Journals, Proceedings, and Book Series

One can also consider browsing through parapsychological journals, proceedings, and book series. Among the essential journals and proceedings are the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology* (AJP), the *European Journal of Parapsychology* (EJP), the *International Journal of Parapsychology* (IJP), the *Journal of Parapsychology* (JP), the *Journal* (JASPR) and the *Proceedings of the American Society for Psychical Research* (PASPR), and the *Journal* (JSPR) and the *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* (PSPR). The first issues of the JASPR, PASPR, JSPR, and PSPR as well as the latter issues of the EJP are freely available on the internet. All of the IJP volumes except the last two are available on CD. The AJP, JP, and JSPR are still regularly published and can be subscribed to; students are eligible for a discount. All of the AJP issues are also available at the online database Informit. Older issues of the EJP, JP, JSPR, and PSPR are

The scientific status of parapsychology is still controversial. Debates between proponents and critics on certain topics of parapsychology or the discipline as a whole have been published in renowned journals as well as in book form [...]

available at the online database Lexscien. However, at the latter one subscribers can only browse a maximum of 1,200 pages per month.

Among the essential book series are the *Advances in Parapsychological Research* series (McFarland), the *International Conferences* series (Parapsychology Foundation), the *Parapsychological Monographs* series (Parapsychology Foundation), and the *Research in Parapsychology* series (Scarecrow Press). The web page <http://www.psipog.net/>

[resources.html](#) lists where the journals, proceedings, and book series mentioned are available. There are of course various other parapsychological journals, proceedings, and book series worth looking at.

Terms and Concepts

A short glossary of parapsychological terms can be found in the JP volumes. A comprehensive glossary was compiled by Thalbourne (2003). The meaning of the key terms *psychic*, *parapsychological*, *paranormal*, *psi*, *anomalous*, and *exceptional* is discussed by Tremmel (2014a, revised version 2014b).

Theoretical Approaches

A discipline is usually measured against the theories it produces. A systematic overview of theoretical approaches is given by Irwin and Watt (2007, Chapter 8) and Stokes (2007, Chapter 5). Older overviews can be found in the *Advances in Parapsychological Research* volumes 2 and 5. The-

oretical approaches by various authors are also collected in *a volume edited by May and Marwaha* (2015).

Literature on Anomalistic Psychology and Anomalistics

Two disciplines that are younger and tend to be topically more comprehensive than parapsychology are anomalistics and anomalistic psychology. The topics of anomalistics are covered, for example, by the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, of which older issues are freely available online. Anomalistic psychology comes in two variants (Tremmel, 2014a, 2014b). One variant is concerned with anomalous experiences, including not only ostensible psi experiences, but also, for example, hallucinations, lucid dreaming, and synesthesia. *Varieties of Anomalous Experience* (2nd ed.) by Cardeña, Lynn, and Krippner (2014) devotes a chapter to each of these and other experiences. The other variant is concerned with extraordinary phenomena as well as paranor-

A short glossary of parapsychological terms can be found in the JP volumes. A comprehensive glossary was compiled by Thalbourne (2003).

mal and related beliefs, which are discussed more skeptically by French and Stone (2014) and less skeptically by Holt, Simmonds-Moore, Luke, and French (2012).

Literature on Clinical Parapsychology and Exceptional Experiences

Two other young disciplines, which are related to each other, are clinical parapsychology and the psychology of exceptional experiences, dealing with subjectively anomalous experiences and their clinical aspects. The works edited by Kramer, Bauer, and Hövelmann (2012) and Simmonds-Moore (2012) have had a formative influence on these

disciplines. Furthermore, young open-access journals, such as *Paranthropology* and the *Journal of Exceptional Experiences and Psychology*, focus on experience.

A comprehensive list of further reading on parapsychology (English and German literature) can also be found at the website of the Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene: <http://www.igpp.de/german/library/literat.htm>

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Articles Relevant to Parapsychology in Journals of Various Fields (XXI)

This is the twenty-first part of the regular *Mindfield* column that traces and documents references to publications of parapsychological relevance in the periodical literature of various fields. The 60 selected references below bring the total to exactly 1,370 fairly recent articles in a variety of mostly peer-reviewed periodicals from the scientific mainstream.

The publication of specialized subject-bound bibliographies has a long tradition in virtually all scientific disciplines. For the field of parapsychology nobody did more to maintain, uphold, and expand this valuable tradition than Rhea A. White, a professional bibliographer with a Master's degree in Library Science from the Pratt Institute (1965), and a two-time PA President (Krippner, 1992; Hövelmann, in prep.), who contributed numerous bibliographies of the parapsychological literature in the regular parapsychological journals, in books of her own (e.g.,

White & Dale, 1973; White, 1976), and, a bit later, in *Parapsychology Abstracts International*, a journal that she founded in 1983 and of which I was one of several contributing editors from its first issue and for many years (see also Alvarado, 1984). Rhea White was only too aware that the compilation of bibliographies is a potentially important, meta-level, discipline-enforcing contribution to our field.

Equally useful, and often substantial but with a wider than only parapsychological perspective, were the "random bibliographies" that Marcello Truzzi regularly published in the pages of his journal, the *Zetetic Scholar*. Not the first, but one of the earliest and most substantial and comprehensive bibliographies pertaining to sections of parapsychology and its historical precursors was



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published by German philosopher-psychologist-physician Max Dessoir (1887), then 21 years of age (who coined the term "parapsychology" two years later [Dessoir, 1889]). This was followed, in the next couple of years, by an extensive two-volume bibliog-

raphy on hypnotism and related topics by the same compiler (Dessoir, 1888, 1890). A modern one-volume facsimile reprint was published in our century (Dessoir, 2002), which emphasizes its long-term relevance even after more than 125 years.

As so often, useful input and suggestions from my colleagues Renaud Evrard, Maurice van Lujtelaar, and Annalisa Ventola is gratefully acknowledged. Hints to other pertinent recent articles are always welcome. Please send them to the author at hoevelmann.communication@kmpx.de

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